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NEWSWATCH

Boat still in Iran

KUWAIT, May 26, (Reuters): Oman is still mediating to try to secure the release of a Kuwaiti Coast Guard boat seized by Iran two weeks ago in the Gulf, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs was quoted yesterday as saying.
Yousef Bin Alawi told a local daily that Oman was in contact with Tehran.
The boat disappeared on May 9 near the Khor Abdullah waterway after giving chase to a boat trying to infiltrate Kuwaiti waters.
Kuwaiti sources said last week Iran had acknowledged through Oman it was holding the boat, had released two Egyptian and six Kuwaiti crew members and would return the boat.
But the local daily said the Kuwaiti crew was still in Iran.

Stabbed to death

LONDON, May 26, (UPI): A US embassy official was found stabbed to death in her London flat and her death is being treated as "suspicious," police said today.
Marie Burke, a 63-year-old mother of three, was found yesterday afternoon in her flat in Sussex Gardens, Paddington, about four miles (six km) northwest of the US embassy in Grosvenor Square, a Scotland Yard spokesman said.

Nasty game

LONDON, May 26, (KUNA): A nasty video game, "The Infidel," is now available in the market, teaching the Israelis how they can experience crushing the Palestinian uprising on monitorscreens at their own homes, a British newspaper reported yesterday.

One banner

NEW DELHI, May 26, (KUNA): Senior Muslim leaders are making efforts to bring all Muslim parties and organisations under one banner with an aim to avoid split over votes in the coming parliamentary elections, scheduled to be held in December.

Draft exemption

NICOSIA, May 26, (Reuters): Draft-age Iranian men living abroad can now buy official exemption from military service by paying up to \$10,000, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported today.

6-month renewal

UNITED NATIONS, May 26, (Reuters): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended yesterday a further six-month renewal of the UN force that serves as a buffer between the Syrian and Israeli armies on the Golan Heights.

Arms deal

LONDON, May 26, (Reuters): France and Saudi Arabia are set to announce arms deals worth 18 billion French francs (\$2.7 billion), a London-based Lebanese newspaper said yesterday.

Kurdish attack

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, May 26, (Reuters): Thirty-three people, including eight Turkish soldiers, have been killed in a five-day onslaught by separatist Kurdish rebels in southeast Turkey, official sources said today.

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Leaders give in to Syria on Lebanon

Arab summit endorses PLO strategy

CASABLANCA, May 26, (Agencies): Arab leaders, abandoning attempts to make Syria withdraw its troops from Lebanon, ended a marathon four-day summit today, with a full endorsement of the PLO's new Middle East peace strategy.
Moroccan host King Hassan closed the final session, where Arab leaders, some red-eyed with fatigue, welcomed Egypt's official return to the Arab League.
"This summit conference will go down ... as the one where Arab ranks were solidified by sorely-missed Egypt's return to its place in its family," said League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi.

Egypt's re-admission to the League 10 years after it was suspended for signing a separate peace with Israel was one of the summit's main achievements.
Arab leaders also endorsed the PLO's drive to set up an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.
They backed its campaign for an international Middle East conference and welcomed the November decisions of the Palestine National Council, where PLO leader Yasser Arafat proclaimed Palestinian independence.
"The conference expresses its support for the Palestinian peace initiative," the final statement said.



Khaddaf (left) talks with Mubarak during an unprecedented meeting in Casablanca. (Reuters wirephoto)

Syria beefs up its forces

US denies expulsion

BEIRUT, May 26, (AP): Israeli and Syrian fighter jets patrolled different sectors of Lebanon's airspace today amid reports that Syria has brought up more tanks to back its 40,000 troops deployed across the country.
Christian Army units of Gen Michel Aoun and Syrian troops fought with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades across Beirut's dividing Green Line for two hours. Police said no casualties were reported.
An explosion rocked the densely-populated Abu Samra neighbourhood in Tripoli, 37 miles (60 kilometres) north of Beirut, around 1 pm (10:00 GMT), the Lebanese Red Cross said. It was not immediately known what caused the blast.
"It started a fire, but no details are available as telephone contacts with Tripoli are down," said a Red Cross spokesman.
The US embassy denied a report by the East Beirut daily newspaper Al Anwar that Aoun's Christian cabinet had expelled American Charge d'Affaires Daniel Simpson for adopting "hostile" policies to Lebanon.
"We categorically deny the report that Mr Simpson was expelled," said an embassy spokesman who refused to be named.
"He was asked by the American government to go back to Washington as a routine measure. He left yesterday," the spokesman said.
In occupied Jerusalem, Israeli radio said the cabinet held a special session to discuss Syria's reported deployment of an armoured brigade and helicopter-borne commandos.

Leave Lebanon, Iraq tells Syrians

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, Arab Times

CASABLANCA: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has asked Syria to withdraw troops from Lebanon and allow the country to decide its future, according to informed diplomatic sources.
Syrian President Hafez Assad rejected the call, sources added.
The call was made during a six-hour heated debate held by Arab leaders on Wednesday.
The dispute between the two leaders could dampen reconciliation efforts between Iraq and Syria, it is learned.
Saddam said: "Lebanon has become like a swamp for the Syrian forces and they should withdraw before they sink in it."
Saddam and Assad were the main speakers during the debate held in camera.

Hussein, in strong terms, repeated the demand, stressing that Iraq's demand was made with the consensus of all Arab leaders.
Saddam asked if any Arab leader objected to the call no one responded. As no Arab leader has commented, it means that they all agree to the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.
Assad, addressing the leaders, said that Syrian troops went to Lebanon at the request of the legal Lebanese government, sources said.
"For this reason, Syria will not withdraw its forces until a strong legal Lebanese government is formed, and requests troop withdrawal," Assad is reported to have said.

(Continued on Page 5, Col 1)

The report claimed the 40 Syrian tanks and armoured personnel carriers were deployed yesterday in mountains south and east of Beirut overlooking the Christian enclave.
Police said Syrian gunners in West Beirut shelled the coastline north of the city with howitzers early in the day to maintain a blockade of the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave.
At least 70 Muslims wounded in eight weeks of Lebanese artillery battles were evacuated from Beirut today for treatment in Iran. (Reuters)

Zhao under house arrest

Hardliners win

BEIJING, May 26, (Agencies): Reform-minded Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang has been stripped of his post and placed under house arrest as conservatives begin a purge of liberals to gain control of the divided government, sources said today.

Zhao lost power in a bitter fight with conservative Premier Li Peng after Li ordered martial law in Beijing following the occupation of central Tiananmen Square on May 13 by students demanding a freer society and cleaner government, the Chinese and diplomatic sources said.
Officials who have worked under Zhao to chart political and economic reforms will face disciplinary action, with some losing their jobs, sources said. Among those reported in trouble were party propaganda Chief Hu Qili and Vice Premier Tian Jiyun.
Zhao has been a leading proponent of market-oriented economic reforms championed by 84-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping, but the two differed over political change. The party chief has expressed sympathy for the students' goals.
President Yang Shangkun, an ally of Deng, said in a speech to top officials yesterday that Zhao's actions "had a very bad effect" on the nation, a government source said.
Other hardline, Chinese leaders denounced Zhao and six other moderates as a traitorous faction that must be purged.
Veteran party conservative Chen Yun, in a nationally televised address, warned of a secret plot apparently hatched by a small liberal faction of the Communist Party leadership aimed at toppling Deng and his allies, including Li.

Chen did not mention Zhao by name but it was clear his attack was aimed at Zhao's liberal reform-minded faction in the party.
Millions of Chinese from all walks of life have taken up the students' cause, with demonstrations erupting in dozens of cities demanding Li and Deng step down.

The number of students in Tiananmen Square has dwindled to about 20,000, but leaders said the remaining protesters had not changed their resolution to stay despite the presence of martial law troops around the city.
"It's going to get more complex. We cannot ascertain what the leaders' intentions are, but we will not leave the square," said a student leader from Qinhua University who gave only his last name, Xin.
Chinese and diplomatic sources said Zhao was under house arrest. A document circulated today to county- and district-level party officials said Zhao was no longer heading the ruling Communist Party, according to a diplomat who has provided reliable information in the past.
No successor was named in the document. The party's central committee technically would have to ratify any change in the leadership made by the conservatives.
Sources said conservatives accused Zhao of heading an anti-party clique, splitting the party, instigating disturbances, revealing party secrets, corruption and taking credit for Deng's achievements during the past decade of economic reform.
The report could not be officially confirmed and were not the first time top leaders were said to be facing party discipline during the power struggle. A Foreign Ministry spokesman had said yesterday that Zhao retained his post.
In addition to Zhao, two sources said National People's Congress Chairman Wan Li was under detention in Shanghai after being prevented from returning to Beijing yesterday.



A demonstrator holds a small bottle hanging from a stick with a sign saying "running away" to protest against China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping, whose name in Chinese is a pun for "small bottle." (Reuters wirephoto)

Benazir replaces powerful ISI chief

ISLAMABAD, May 26, (Agencies): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has replaced the hardline chief of Pakistan's powerful military intelligence agency, Lieut Gen. Hamid Gul, amid reports of differences between the two over Afghan policy, official sources said yesterday.

They said Gul has been replaced as head of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) by Lieut Gen. Shamus-ur Rehman Kalloo, who was retired from military service by the late President Zia-ul-Haq for criticising Army involvement in politics.
Gul, 52, was appointed by Zia in 1987 as head of ISI, which has played a crucial role in the direction of the more than 10-year-old civil war in Afghanistan and oversees the supply of US, Chinese and other weapons to Pakistan-based Afghan rebels fighting the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul.
The ISI reportedly encouraged former officials of the Zia government to form an alliance to challenge Benazir's Pakistan People's Party in last November's elections. Benazir appointed a four-man intelligence reorganisation committee, which last month recommended a reform of the country's intelligence services.

Gul's dismissal comes amid reports of increasing friction between the government and the ISI over Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan. Gul, like Zia, is reported to favour the Islamic fundamentalist groups among the rebels, while Benazir considers this a mistake.
Gul was heavily criticised by some Pakistan-based Afghan rebel leaders for his role in the unsuccessful rebel assault on Jalalabad, which began in early March.

The rebels say he pushed the mujahadeen into making an all-out attack on the eastern Afghan city, aiming for a quick victory after the Soviet troop withdrawal in February.
Gul has rejected this version, blaming Benazir's government.
Benazir said today that a decision by her government to recognise the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state would be premature while UN-sponsored talks to reunite the island continue. She will visit Iraq tomorrow.
Benazir told a news conference that the Turkish Cypriots had the right approach in seeking to reunite Cyprus under a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation.
The name of a city park in Ankara was changed yesterday from Zia-ul-Haq to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as a gesture to Benazir.

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Retin-A has anti-ageing effect on skin

TUCSON, Arizona, May 26 (AP): The largest and longest study yet on the anti-ageing effects of Retin-A confirms that the acne cream does smooth wrinkles, but reducing doses to ameliorate side-effects apparently reduces its anti-ageing capacity, researchers say.

"There is no question that the more you use, the more you improve," said University of Arizona

researcher Clayton Owens. "In those people who used the strongest doses, what we saw was a decrease in fine wrinkling, in roughness and in uneven colouring."

The University of Michigan found a year ago that Retin-A — a synthetic form of vitamin A known as tretinoin, long used to treat acne — dramatically reduced the ravages of ageing and sun damage in a

short-term study of about 30 people.

Last year, the US Food and Drug Administration issued a strong statement condemning indiscriminate use of Retin-A to treat wrinkles. FDA commissioner Frank Young said there is no conclusive evidence the drug reduces wrinkles.

The Michigan study used a high dose of the drug, and patients suffered significant known side effects

of Retin-A — peeling, burning, redness and overall irritation of the skin.

A six-month study of more than 300 patients last year at the University of Arizona, Duke University, New York University and the University of Minnesota used lower and varying doses of the drug to learn whether side effects could be eased while still getting the positive anti-ageing effects, Owens said.

Touvier lived in at least 10 monasteries

Shock over priests' sheltering of war criminal

PARIS, May 26, (Reuters): The French Roman Catholic Church is deeply embarrassed by revelations that priests sheltered the country's most wanted war criminal, arrested on Wednesday, for many of the 45 years he was on the run.

A breakaway group of traditionalist Catholics led by excommunicated

French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre has taken the brunt of criticism after Paul Touvier was arrested in one of the group's abbeys in southern France.

The 74-year-old Touvier, a Catholic, has been charged with crimes against humanity.

"How can ecclesiastical institutions...

shelter a war criminal? This hospitality shocks our sense of ethics," said Richard Wertenschlag, rabbi of Lyon.

Touvier, head of the Lyon Brigade of the French militia which collaborated with the German occupying forces in World War Two, has been sentenced to death twice in this absence.

It is not yet known if religious institutions which sheltered Touvier will be prosecuted. Justice Minister Pierre Arpaillange said he had asked police to launch an inquiry.

"Based on this, the possibility of charges of harbouring a criminal will be discussed," Arpaillange said.

US laboratory backs cold fusion, conference undecided

SANTA FE, New Mexico, May 26, (Reuters): The Los Alamos National Laboratory on Wednesday backed controversial claims that nuclear fusion can occur at room temperature but said the process would probably never supply cheap energy.

Los Alamos physicist Howard Menlove

told reporters he had "no doubt" a nuclear reaction of some sort occurred during US-funded experiments duplicating the cold-fusion work of two scientists in Utah.

But Menlove said the reaction did not produce enough energy to be considered a likely source of cheap or viable power.

Menlove said neutrons were released,

proving that a nuclear reaction was occurring. But he said the mechanism that produced the neutrons has not been identified.

Two chemists working in Utah stunned the scientific world on March 23 by announcing they had achieved fusion at

room temperature in an ordinary bottle on a laboratory table top.

The report of Stanley Pons of the University of Utah and Martin Fleischmann of Britain's Southampton University raised hopes that a safe and cheap source of energy had been found. But their conclusions have been widely disputed.

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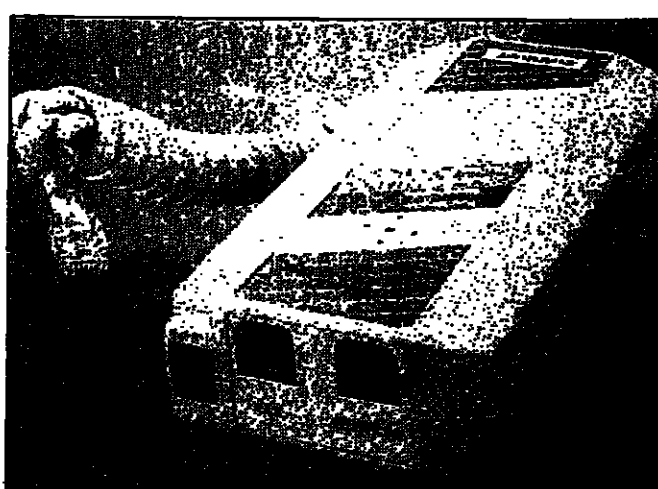
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Wright: firm

'I'll stay and fight'

Wright: no deal

WASHINGTON, May 26, (Agencies): US House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright has denied offering to make a deal with the House Ethics Committee over charges he broke House rules on finances, and an aide said he has no plans to resign.

Wright's decision to stand fast came despite mounting pressure and speculation that the 10-month investigation into his financial affairs would force him to step down.

As he prepared to leave town for the Memorial Day holiday weekend, Wright, the third person in the US governmental hierarchy after President George Bush and Vice-President Dan Quayle, issued a statement yesterday declaring, "There is no deal now. There will be no deal in the future."

His spokesman, Mark Johnson, said the speaker was not planning to resign.

"The speaker is considering his options, including resignation," a Democratic leadership source said yesterday.

Reports about a possible deal raced through the House on Wednesday. It was reported to have involved an offer by Wright to step down if the Ethics Committee would drop some of the charges against him.

Second case: A second case of infection by the HIV-2 strain of the deadly AIDS virus, still very rare in the Western hemisphere, has been reported in the United States, doctors in Massachusetts said on Wednesday. Virtually all victims of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the United States have been infected by the HIV-1 virus. HIV-2 is much harder to detect and treat than the more common virus, and in Africa has been spread primarily through heterosexual contact.

HIV-1 is primarily found in the homosexual community or intravenous drug users. HIV-2 was first identified in West Africa in 1985 and since has spread rapidly through Africa and Europe. In April, doctors reported that at least five cases of HIV-2 have been identified in Brazil but, until now, only one case of HIV-2 infection had been found in North America, in an immigrant from West Africa. (Reuters)

Melanoma gene located: Scientists have located a gene responsible for irregularly shaped moles that are a major underlying cause of fatal skin cancer. The gene causes moles known as *Dysplastic nevi*, which often run into families. The moles can become cancerous, resulting in malignant melanoma.

Unlike other forms of skin cancer, melanoma is often fatal. Most cases are not inherited, but about 10 per cent of cases occur in people with a family history of the disease. In the research, scientists came closer to locating the gene involved in inherited melanoma, although they have not yet isolated it. (AP)

Heart attacks: A cholesterol-carrying particle in the blood may encourage heart attacks by hampering the body's ability to destroy blood clots, researchers reported Thursday. Two teams of scientists found that in the test tube, the particle known as lipoprotein (A) interfered with a key step in clot destruction.

Clots trigger heart attacks by plugging narrowed arteries, and one researcher said they may encourage the narrowing of the arteries in the first place.

Lipoprotein (A) resembles the better-known low-density lipoprotein, the so-called "bad cholesterol" that contributes to atherosclerosis, the buildup of material on artery walls. The buildup narrows the vessels and sets the stage for heart attacks. (AP)

Willing to lie: A study in a leading medical journal concluded most doctors are apparently willing to lie if they think deception is in the best interest of patients and their families. The survey of 211 doctors found most would mislead insurance companies to get them to pay for a test and would deceive the wife of a man infected with gonorrhea by a prostitute to protect the marriage.

Nearly half of those who would deceive the family justified the action by saying it was an honest mistake. One-third said they feared legal action and 14 per cent felt it would be less traumatic for the family. (UPI)

Four eggs: The cholesterol-conscious American Heart Association increased the recommended dietary intake of eggs Wednesday from three to four a week for the average healthy adult. Dr John Larosa, chairman of the group's nutrition committee, said the panel reached its egg decision "in view of new information from the Department of Agriculture indicating lower cholesterol content in egg yolks."

This viewpoint does not represent a change in the AHA's dietary guidelines — the nutrition committee still recommends a maximum of 300 milligrams of dietary cholesterol a day," said Larosa, dean of clinical affairs at the George Washington University Medical Centre.

"But new analyses of egg yolks show the average cholesterol content of one large egg yolk to be 213 milligrams, rather than the previously accepted 275 milligrams," he said. "This allows us to four, rather than three, egg yolks from all sources within the currently suggested meal plans," Larosa said, adding, "the four eggs include 'invisible' yolks consumed in baked goods and other prepared foods." (UPI)

Preventing herpes: The virus-fighting drug Acyclovir can prevent many cases of a deadly form of herpes virus in people who receive kidney transplants, medical researchers reported on Wednesday. Cytomegalovirus is a major problem for transplant recipients, increasing the risk that the donated kidney will be rejected or the patient will die. The virus is also a threat to people infected by the AIDS virus.

Although attempts to treat a known infection with Acyclovir have not been successful, researchers said the drug, made by Burroughs Wellcome, can prevent the disease. The new study, done with patients at the University of Minnesota Health Sciences Centre, found that Acyclovir seems able to prevent a cytomegalovirus infection in the kidney recipient, even in high-risk cases where the donated kidney had once been exposed to the virus. (Reuters)

Lab tests successful

Microscopic motors

SALT LAKE CITY, May 26, (AP): Microscopic motors the width of several human hairs are running at high speed at a university laboratory, where researchers believe they can drive tiny saws and drills or dispense medicine inside the human body.

The devices, called wobble motors, have a tiny hair-like rod inside the wall of a shaft that runs on electrostatic force instead of the electromagnetic force used by regular electric motors.

One wobble motor that has a diameter of 560 microns has made some six billion revolutions, said Dr Stephen Jacobsen, director of the University of Utah's centre for engineering design.

A micron is one millionth of a metre. A human hair is 80 microns thick. Tests have started on a wobble motor 200 microns in diameter.

Other labs have produced micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS) of about 100 microns, but the university's wobble motors are the first to operate for sustained periods — more than three lifespans of car engines, Jacobsen said.

The device is called a wobble motor because the armature wobbles slightly as it rolls around the inside of the motor. Since it rolls, instead of sliding as a normal armature does, friction is greatly reduced, making it unnecessary to solve the problem of lubrication, Jacobsen said.

Speeds of more than 120,000 wobbles per minute have been achieved by the motor, he said, and the researchers expect speeds of up to 500,000 wobbles per minute in the near future.

The rotation produces high torque, which could be harnessed to tiny saws, knives, claws or other devices to grip, cut, twist or do other work in a controlled fashion.

"We've used it with a micro drill — using a 0.002-inch (0.005-centimetre) bit," Jacobsen said.

The wobble motor marks a significant advance in the race with Japan and with several other US research institutions in developing MEMS, Jacobsen said. The potential of such devices is enormous, he said. They could be used to operate tiny pumps that would dispense medication within the body.

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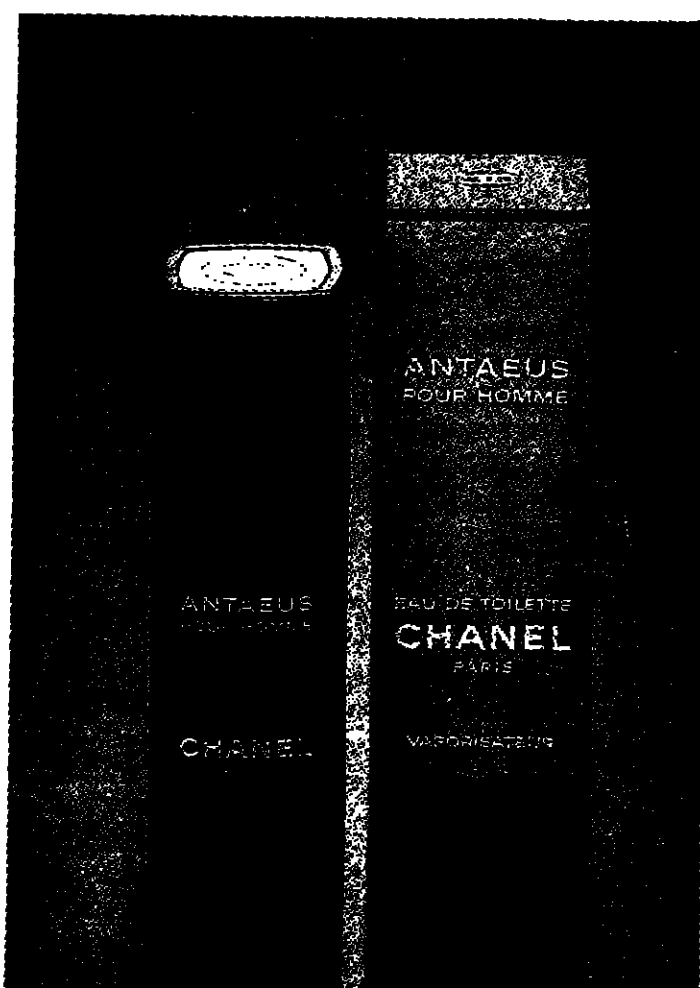
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British government may reform libel laws

'Private Eye' won't go down without a fight

LONDON, May 26. (Reuters): The British government said yesterday it will consider reforms to libel laws as the satirical magazine "Private Eye" launched a fighting fund to help pay huge damages awarded to the wife of a convicted mass killer.

"Private Eye" said it will appeal against damages of 600,000 pound sterling (\$942,000) it was ordered to pay the estranged wife of the "Yorkshire Ripper" murderer over allegations she sold her story to a newspaper.

Its editor Ian Hislop said Wednesday's court award to Sonia Sutcliffe could force the magazine to close. But he said he had been inundated with offers of cash from readers to help pay the damages.

John Wakeham, the government's parliamentary business manager, said the government will consider reforming the libel laws.

"I am aware that there has been recent

criticism of a number of aspects of the law of defamation, including the size of some libel awards," he told parliament.

Press reports focussed on the difference between cash won by Sutcliffe and the much smaller compensation awarded to families of women attacked by her husband Peter and to those who survived attacks. Peter Sutcliffe was jailed in 1981 for 13 murders in northern England.

Hislop says the award was 100 times more than the average compensation received by the killer's victims. "If this is justice, I am a banana," he said after the court ruling.

"Private Eye" started on a shoestring budget by a group of schoolfriends in 1961. It has walked a tightrope between investigative journalism and the libel courts. It is currently contesting 20 other libel cases.

The massive damages awarded against

the "Private Eye" have prompted calls for a change in the way such payments are assessed.

It could also mean the end of the magazine's colourful cast of mythical characters — proprietor Lord Gnome, drunken journalist Lurchtime O'Booze and gossip columnist Grovel — as "Private Eye" says it cannot pay.

A day after the award, the government disclosed a design made earlier that it would consider reforms to the libel laws, including issues such as the level of damages and whether they should continue to be assessed by juries.

The magazine, for years a thorn in the side of the establishment for its irreverent exposes of public life alleged Mrs Sonia Sutcliffe to sell her story to a newspaper after her husband was jailed.

The damages were the largest ever awarded by a British jury and the magazine also

faces a bill for legal costs of more than 100,000 pounds (\$157,000).

"Private Eye", which has thrived on the notoriety of frequent libel cases, launched a fund-raising appeal to stave off bankruptcy.

Legal experts said the increasing size of libel awards means newspapers will become reluctant to defend their stories in court, even if they're true.

They, along with several national newspapers, recommended changes in England's libel laws that give juries freedom to set damages without any guidance from judges. It's the only area of English civil law where juries hold such wide discretionary powers.

Newspapers said yesterday that if Sonia, 38, died before her husband, she would inherit the remainder of the award. Sutcliffe is incarcerated in a hospital for the criminally insane.



'Guardians of peace'

Graduates of the US Military Academy toss their hats in the air on Wednesday after receiving their commissions at West Point.

Vice-President Dan Quayle, delivering the commencement address at the academy, was hushed briefly at the mention of his National Guard duty during the Vietnam war.

Ignoring a steady downpour, Quayle praised the nation's new second lieutenants — including 112 women, 156 minorities and four foreign students — who were presented with degrees and officer's bars at the US military academy's 191st commencement ceremony.

"You are the guardians of peace. While working for peace, we must keep our defence strong," he said.

Brief hushing arose from the corps of cadets. West Point's underclassmen, when the vice-president was introduced with a mention of his Vietnam-era service in the Indiana National Guard, Quayle, 42, did not react.

David Backwith, Quayle's press secretary, and others described the cadets' reaction as good-natured revelry.

"They made an animal-type grunting sound when the National Guard was mentioned," Backwith said. "There were some good-natured grunts. Let me admit, theoretically, that some people hessed." (Reuters wire-photo)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

ANCONA, Italy: Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk sentenced to life imprisonment for shooting Pope John Paul, has received two years remission on his jail term for good behaviour, prison review board officials said on Thursday.

Agca, who shot the Pope during a general audience in St Peter's Square on May 13, 1981, will now be eligible for parole in the year 2003 instead of 2007. (Reuters)

LONDON: Chimpanzees could be extinct in the wild in 50 years if man continues to destroy their natural forest habitat and steal their babies, British specialist Jane Goodall said on Thursday.

Goodall, whose work with chimpanzees in Africa has been widely acclaimed, said their numbers had fallen from millions at the turn of the century to between 150,000 and 200,000. (Reuters)

BEIJING: Eighty people died from rabies in the eastern province of Shandong during the first three months of this year, an official newspaper said Friday.

The China Daily quoted a local health official as saying 267,000 were bitten by dogs and 539 people died from rabies last year in the province. (AP)

SACRAMENTO, California: Governor George Deukmejian signed legislation Wednesday restricting the sale and possession of assault weapons in California, a first-in-the-nation law stemming from a schoolyard massacre.

The two bills signed by the Republican governor virtually ban the sale of more than 50 specified semi-automatic assault rifles, pistols and shotguns after Jan 1 and sharply restrict their possession. (AP)

GEORGETOWN, Guyana: Angered by his unsuccessful attempts to meet President Desmond Hoyte, a Guyanese man forced his way into a zoo Thursday and freed two lions, causing zoo staff and visitors to flee in panic.

The unidentified 37-year-old man was later shot in the thigh after attacking policemen with a wooden plank. Police were also forced to shoot the two lions, donated by the Guyanese government to the Trinidad, after failing to lure them out of a thicket. (AP)

NEW YORK: Frederic Remington's 1902 bronze "Coming Through the Rye," depicting four cowboys firing pistols into the air at full gallop, was sold at auction Thursday for \$4.4 million, a world record price for a piece of US sculpture.

The piece was bought by an anonymous buyer, said Dana Milsted, a spokesman for Christie's auction house in Manhattan. (AP)

WASHINGTON: President George Bush and his wife Barbara, are worth about \$4 million, about double earlier estimates partly because of his Maine seashore house and thrill, a US magazine said on Thursday.

Money magazine said in its June issue that, based on interviews with financial experts and others, the net worth estimate is much higher than others made after the Bushes released financial data earlier this month. (Reuters)

ATMORE, Alabama: A man who killed a widow and stole her Christmas presents was executed in Alabama's electric chair early Friday after the US Supreme Court denied his appeal.

Michael Lindsey, 28, was the fourth person executed in Alabama and the 111th in the nation since the 1976 Supreme Court ruling allowing states to resume capital punishment. (AP)

NEW DELHI: An Indian Airlines Airbus with 270 passengers aboard was damaged when it collided with a culture over New Delhi, but the pilot managed to make an emergency landing and no one was injured.

An airline official said the collision occurred at 4,000 feet (1,212 metres) height. A disaster was averted when the pilot landed the plane safely at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. (AP)

HELSINKI, Finland: Bello Kela gets up in the morning, performs his ablutions, eats breakfast and dresses in a black suit and bow tie. Sounds normal enough, but Kela is doing it all in a glass box in front of hundreds of curious passers-by.

Kela, a well-known Finnish dancer and performance artist, is performing a week-long modern dance called "Cityman." (AP)

HOUSTON: The woman described as the high priestess of a drug smuggling that had practiced human sacrifices at a Mexican ranch proclaimed her innocence in a prison interview and said she had been tortured by Mexican authorities.

Sara Albrete Villareal, tearful flooding her eyes and her hands clutching a tissue, told the Houston Post that she was abused by Mexican lawmen demanding details of the torture-mutilation slayings of 15 people at the Santa Elena ranch near Matamoros. (AP)



Cartoon restored

A Leonardo da Vinci cartoon damaged by a shotgun blast two years ago was unveiled on Thursday at London's National Gallery after experts pieced together minute fragments of its delicate paper.

A former British soldier, sent to a mental institution after the attack, fired at "The Virgin and Child with St Anne and St John the Baptist," sending thousands of glass splinters from the frame into the 500-year-old work.

The cartoon, valued at £20 million (\$31.4 million), will now be protected by armoured glass and a full-time security guard while on display at the gallery in Trafalgar Square.

Art expert Eric Harding spent months restoring the work using modern technology and techniques which make it hard to spot the damaged area on the Virgin's breast.



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Doctors say progress encouraging

Birth control for men?

SEATTLE, May 26. (AP): Encouraging progress is being made on developing a reversible birth-control method for men, the first non-permanent male contraceptive since the condom was invented about 200 years ago, a researcher says.

Twenty-two Seattle-area men and their sexual partners are among about 250 couples worldwide participating in a study in which the men are injected with an anabolic steroid that shuts off sperm production, Dr. C. Alvin Paulsen said at a news conference Tuesday.

The purpose of the injectable contraceptive is to provide a reversible, alternative method to vasectomy, and also to take some of the burden of birth control off women, said Paulsen, a University of Washington professor of medicine and a major researcher in male contraception.

The product, if successful, may be marketable in about 10 years, he said. "This is a drug-seeking, dose-seeking exercise," Paulsen said of the human test program.

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BALTIMORE: Astronomers have developed a device that takes the twinkling out of starlight.

Stargazers long have struggled to obtain clear, unblurred images through telescopes, but because of atmospheric turbulence settled for distorted light waves.

Johns Hopkins University scientists said their new adaptive optics coronagraph corrects these distortions, which show up as twinkling to the naked eye. (UPI)

COPENHAGEN: Denmark's Parliament on Friday passed a law allowing Danish homosexual couples to get married and giving them equal rights with heterosexual couples in all but adoption.

The bill passed by 71 votes for, 47 against and with five abstentions and 56 absentees in the 179-seat Parliament, where members were given their freedom to vote across party lines.

The new law gives homosexual marriage the status of a "registered partnership," with full inheritance rights and requiring official divorce proceedings for dissolution.

Only Sweden has a law similar to Denmark's, but in the Swedish case homosexual couples are equated with heterosexual unmarried couples, whereas Denmark's law gives them full married status. (UPI)

CANTON, Mississippi: A 4-year-old boy died while saving his infant brother from a fire in the family's mobile home, according to the fire-fighters who found them.

Richard Henry and 7-week-old Darvin Henry weren't breathing when they were found by volunteer fire-fighters found the boys under a bed while searching a smoke-filled back bedroom Tuesday at a trailer park west of Canton, in central Mississippi, authorities said. (AP)

BRUSSELS: The European Economic Community (EEC) is worried that cheap Israeli and Hungarian versions of French *jele gres* would tarnish the reputation of the real thing.

French farmers' complaints that Israel and Hungary are exporting inferior imitations of the luxury goose-liver product are being investigated, the EEC executive commission said in reply to a parliamentary question. (Reuters)

WASHINGTON: Four-year-olds who were able to wait the longest in pre-school for rewards of candy treats tend later in life to accomplish more, to be more intelligent and to have higher scores on college entrance exams, researchers said Thursday.

That's the finding of three Columbia University researchers who followed up on experiments conducted in the 1970s among students at a Stanford University pre-school. The study is to be published Friday in the *Journal of Science*. (AP)

NEW YORK: A special Exxon Corp. legal committee has named former attorney-general Griffin B. Bell to head an investigation into the Alaska oil spill, a newspaper reported.

Bell will try to determine responsibility for the accident and recommend to Exxon's board whether lawsuits should be filed against former or current Exxon officials.

PARIS: South Korean pianist-conductor Myung-Whun Chung became the Bastille Opera's new musical director on Thursday and promised an end to the public squabbling that marked the sacking of predecessor Daniel Barenboim.

"If there is a fight I state publicly right now, I will not fight, I will just leave. I can just work with that kind of tension," Chung told a news conference. (Reuters)

PARIS: Top designer Maryll Larvin has quit traditional fashion house Larvin, the second victim of a shakeup in French haute couture since a new generation of businessmen bought into the industry.

Maryll, married to the nephew of original founder Jeanne Larvin, on Thursday cited personal reasons for leaving the century-old fashion house. (Reuters)

STRASBOURG, France: The European Parliament on Wednesday adopted proposals for a law which would cut the number of US television programmes shown in Europe, despite intense lobbying from the United States.

The proposed law will most likely be adopted by the governments of the 12 European Economic Community members at a meeting in Luxembourg on June 14. (AP)

Foul play suspected in blast on Iowa

WASHINGTON, May 26. (UPI): Navy investigators eliminated gun powder as the cause of the deadly explosion on the battleship USS Iowa last month and are examining the possibility of murder or suicide, officials said yesterday.

The Navy investigative service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are examining what Navy officials would only describe as "a special relationship" of two Iowa sailors that ended long before the explosion.

Gunner's Mate Clayton Hartwig, 24, who died in the April 19 blast with 46 other sailors, and Gunner's Mate Kendall Truitt, 21, were close friends, but their relationship soured in December when Truitt married, Navy sources said.

Truitt told investigators his relationship with Hartwig was not homosexual, sources said.

Last year, Hartwig and Truitt had taken out \$50,000 life insurance policies on each other with a double-indemnity clause for accidental death, which might entitle Truitt to a \$100,000 payment.

Two possibilities.

The investigation is exploring whether the explosion in the ship's No.2 gun turret during practice with three of the ship's nine, huge 16-inch (400mm) guns in the Atlantic off Puerto Rico was caused deliberately, either as murder or suicide. Both men worked in the turret.

"Those are the two possibilities, but that's not the focus of the investigation," said Deborah Johnson, an agent with the NIS office in Norfolk, Virginia, the Iowa's home port.

The Navy investigation so far has ruled out the possibility that powder used to propel the shells through the ship's 16-inch guns caused the blast, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams announced yesterday.

Powder stable

"The Navy has satisfied itself that the powder was not the cause of the explosion," Williams said, adding that tests concluded the powder aboard the Iowa is stable.

Johnson said NIS agents have talked to Truitt about the explosion but the spokeswoman declined further comment.

The Navy placed Truitt on administrative leave and announced he has been reassigned to Destroyer Squadron 8, in Mayport, Florida, with orders to report there no later than May 31.

Truitt requested the transfer out of fear that other Iowa sailors, hearing reports of the investigation, might seek revenge, Navy sources said.

Newsday reported federal agents discovered in Hartwig's car a crude detonating device and a book, "How to Get Even Without Going to Jail," that gives examples of making booby traps.

Federal investigators also found detonating caps, a copy of the same book and a burlap patch used for cleaning up the huge 16-inch guns in Truitt's Norfolk apartment last week, Newsday reported.

The Navy and FBI had no comment on the report.

A small fire broke out yesterday in the engine room of a submerged attack submarine with 73 crewmen aboard, the fourth accident involving Navy subs this month, a Navy spokeswoman said.

One of the two main diesel-electric engines of the USS Blueback briefly caught fire off the southern California coast, but it was confined to a small area and put out quickly with no injuries, Lieut Sonya Hedley said. The sub suffered no major damage, she said.

The Blueback, the last remaining Barbel-class submarine operating off the American west coast, surfaced, Hedley said.

"It has not yet been determined whether the submarine will need to be towed or whether it can come in under its own steam," she added.

Menopause linked to ageing

Older women want sex

ATLANTA, May 26. (UPI): Most married women in their 60s not only desire sex but engage in it an average of five times a month, a survey of older women shows.

"The news is good for all of us as we approach our 65th birthdays," said Dr Gloria A. Bachman, a gynaecologist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. "We found sex is alive and well in older women."

Bachman in a report presented Monday to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said 59 older women were surveyed.

It showed that two-thirds of all married women in their 60s, some of them two decades past menopause, are sexually active and many enjoy sex as much as they did when they were younger.

Of the women who weren't sexually active, 60 per cent blamed their husbands — mainly citing a lack of interest on the part of their spouses. The husbands, however, the basic reason was impotence, or the fear of it.

Although the report showed some diminution of sexual drive after menopause among all women, those who had a more fulfilling sex life in their childbearing years continued to be more sexually active.

they were ages 55 to 100. Of this group, 663 reached menopause before age 45.

Six years later, 772 of the women had died from a variety of causes, including 139 who had menopause before age 45.

Women whose menopause had occurred before age 40 showed a 95 per cent higher risk of dying during the six years of the study than did women of similar ages whose menopause came at ages 50 to 54.

For women who had reported menopause at ages 40 to 44, the risk was 39 per cent higher.

In contrast, no relationship between age at menopause and death appeared in 3,166 other Seventh Day Adventists whose menopause was caused by surgery.

Other scientists called the work interesting, but cautioned that its conclusions are limited because of the study's methods.

Menopause, when a woman permanently stops menstruating, generally occurs around age 50.

The study was conducted on 5,287 white Seventh Day Adventists who had experienced natural menopause. They filled out questionnaires in 1976, when

they were ages 55 to 100. Of this group, 663 reached menopause before age 45.

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Rapist's killers sentenced

Longer jail terms sought

NICOSIA, May 26. (Reuters): A Turkish-Cypriot prosecutor said today he will appeal for longer prison terms for two West German tourists who killed the man who raped one of them.

Uthe Loh, 48, was sentenced on Monday to four years jail for manslaughter by a court in North Cyprus. Her daughter Melani, 21, who was raped at a lonely camping site, got three years.

"I'm appealing against the court decision because I think it was not enough. I expect a harder sentence," prosecutor Altan Erdag told Reuters.

The court said on Monday that by the time of his death rapist Ozmen Tulga, 20, had been weakened by a fight with both women and no longer posed a threat. It also said the women had failed to run away.

Turkish-Cypriot sources said Defence Attorney Ali Dana earlier filed an appeal against the convictions. Both women had pleaded self-defence.

The women said Tulga forced his way into their tent and hit them with a stick before raping Melani.

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed

DHAKA, May 26, (AP): Police shot and killed a demonstrator when 200 people threw stones and chopped down trees to protest the arrest of an opposition party activist near Chittagong, police said today.

Twenty-five other people were injured when baton-wielding police rushed the crowd during yesterday's protest, police said while contacted by telephone in the port city.

UK seeks support

UNITED NATIONS, May 26, (Reuters): Britain is seeking support for a Security Council resolution condemning the blowing up of a Pan Am jetliner over Scotland last December and urging efforts to make the plastic explosive used more easily detectable, according to a council source.

British UN representative Crispin Tickell hopes to get the resolution adopted without a debate before he relinquishes his presidency of the council at the end of this month.

Swiss army

BERN, Switzerland, May 26, (AP): The Swiss militia army's minimum strength would be cut by 100,000 men by the mid-1990s and soldiers' military service would end at age 42 instead of 50 under plans announced yesterday by Defence Minister Kaspar Villiger.

He said the reform proposals, which require parliamentary approval, reflected "changed overall circumstances" and would free more people "in the best years of life" to run Switzerland's economy and civilian authorities during a crisis.

Ireland election

DUBLIN, May 26, (AP): Prime Minister Charles Haughey's minority government, elected 28 months ago by the narrowest margin possible, has called a general election for June 15 in a bid to capitalise on Ireland's economic revival.

Haughey told the Dail, or parliament, and in a one-line statement said he would ask President Patrick Hillery to formally dissolve the 166-seat legislature. The election is timed to coincide with elections to the 12-nation European Parliament.

Biggest demo

LONDON, May 26, (UPI): A Muslim group said today it expects to hold Britain's "biggest demonstration" in 100 years tomorrow with thousands of people marching on parliament to protest Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses*.

The British Muslim Action Front said it will also protest current British blasphemy law, which covers only blasphemies against the Protestant Church of England, Britain's state religion.

Britons survey

LONDON, May 26, (KUNA): Britons have an optimistic view of the state of the UK at the end of this century, according to the results of a survey announced here today.

Asked if they believed Britain would be better placed in 1999, 47 per cent said it would, 28 per cent thought it would be much the same, and only 22 per cent expected a decline. Over 1,000 people were questioned earlier this week on a wide range of issues.

Anti-security protest

PARIS, May 26, (KUNA): Following a week of strikes to protest against the security measures in the public transport system of Paris, a security officer at a "Metro" station today shot and killed a man who stabbed him twice after mugging a woman.

The incident took place at the Opera station on Wednesday afternoon. The victim, a 45-year-old man, was killed by a single bullet to the chest.

Two hanged

SINGAPORE, May 26, (UPI): Two drug kingpins were hanged today in an international heroin trafficking syndicate with links in Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong were hanged today at Changi prison.

Ng Beng Kee, 48, and Tan Hock Bin, 36, involved in the biggest heroin seizure in Singapore's history, were the third and fourth drug kingpins hanged in the last two weeks. They became the 23rd and 24th executed since the death penalty was introduced for the offence in 1975.

Bomb explosion

NEUCHÂTEL, Switzerland, May 26, (AP): A bomb exploded overnight at a local movie theatre, causing no injuries but some 500,000 Swiss francs (\$280,000) in damage, police said today.

Lift plunges

BENIDORM, Spain, (Reuters): Seven US Marines and two Canadian women were slightly hurt when a lift plunged eight floors to a basement, on Wednesday the third such accident in Spain this week, police said today.

WFC statement

CAIRO, May 26, (Reuters): The World Food Programme (WFP) slammed what it said was widespread apathy towards the plight of the hungry and said rich countries should cut the debt burdens of poor ones.

"Hunger continues to grow because we have not tried hard enough to eradicate it, even though we have the resources to do so," the 36-member WFC said in a statement issued in Cairo.

Sri Lanka to take steps if Indian troops fail

COLOMBO, May 26, (AP): Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said yesterday the government would take "appropriate steps" if Indian peacekeeping troops could not restore peace in Eastern Sri Lanka.

Wijeratne, addressing Parliament, did not elaborate, but military officials, said President Ranasinghe Premadasa would order Sri Lankan troops to move in.

Sri Lankan troops are confined to their barracks

in the north and east under the terms of an India-brokered peace accord of July 1987 that aimed to end a Tamil insurgency for an independent nation in the two regions.

Most Sri Lankan soldiers and police are Sinhalese, the majority ethnic group targeted by Tamil guerrillas when their separatist insurrection began in 1983.

Soon after the signing of the 1987 accord, Indian

soldiers were deployed in Northern and Eastern Provinces to disarm Tamil militants.

On Tuesday, Premadasa appointed a three-man committee to investigate last week's clashes between Tamils and Muslims that left at least 12 people dead and 700 houses damaged along the east coast. The victims included both Tamils and Muslims, but Wijeratne said 80 per cent of the damaged houses belonged to Muslims.

He said arrangements were being made for Indian

troops and Sri Lankan police to jointly patrol the area.

Residents of Sammanthurai, one of the main flash-points, charged that Indian troops were not providing adequate security to the minority Muslims.

Muslim Member of Parliament and residents have demanded that Indian troops be replaced with Sri Lankan soldiers.

Muslim lawmakers said the Tamil rebels attacked Muslims to drive them out of the east.

Bush may reduce troops in Europe

President off to summit

WASHINGTON, May 26, (Agencies): President George Bush, saying the Western alliance faces "new challenges and unparalleled opportunities," set out early today on a four-nation European trip highlighted by a potentially contentious NATO summit.

With the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation grappling over a major dispute about nuclear weapons policy, the Washington Times reported that Bush planned to use the summit as the stage for announcing a reduction of up to 10 per cent in US troop strength in Europe, "as many as 34,000 troops."

White House officials declined immediate comment. "Anything we have to say, we'll say in Europe," said spokesman Bill Harlow. The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sam Nunn, told the US television network CBS that a 10 per cent reduction "is the probable amount of reduction that would occur if the Soviet Union accepted the NATO proposal on conventional arms control which is now tabled."

Fire near N-missiles

WASHINGTON, May 26, (Reuters): A fire aboard a US Navy ship 14 years ago came within 40 feet (12 metres) of the ship's nuclear missiles, Greenpeace and the Institute for Policy Studies charged on Wednesday.

Greenpeace, an environmental pressure group, and IPS, a research institution, said a Nov 22, 1975, collision between the Navy cruiser USS Belknap and the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy caused a fire and explosion.

Admiral Eugene Carroll sent a "Broken Arrow" alert to the Pentagon from the Kennedy, signalling a nuclear weapons accident.

"There was a clear danger at the time I sent the message — a strong probability of nuclear weapons involvement," Carroll said in an interview on Wednesday. "But it didn't work out that way, thank God."

The incident, in which eight men died, was omitted from a 1981 list released by the Defence Department.

Greenpeace and IPS said the list was a "purportedly comprehensive list of 32 military accidents that involved nuclear weapons between 1950 and 1980."



Gorbachev addresses the Congress

Gorbachev gets executive powers

Crisis in Congress

MOSCOW, May 26, (Agencies): Two leading groups of Soviet reformers clashed today over the procedure for legislative elections, with Moscow deputies accusing their Baltic colleagues of threatening to undermine the reform movement by boycotting the vote.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, chairing the first-ever session of the Congress of People's Deputies, declared a "crisis situation" after the tiny Baltic republic of Lithuania announced its boycott of proposed elections for the 542-member Supreme Soviet, a new full-time legislature.

Gorbachev was yesterday elected President, with powers similar to those of the US President.

The Lithuanians announced through Deputy Vytautas Landsbergis they would boycott planned elections for the Supreme Soviet if deputies from other republics could vote on the Lithuanian slate of candidates for the Supreme Soviet.

The Lithuanians and other Baltic reformers want to protect their small slates of candidates from being whittled down in an all-Congress vote.

Roy Medvedev, a Moscow-based unofficial historian whose studies on Stalinism were once banned, appealed to the Lithuanians to reconsider.

The exchange demonstrated the competing interests even among reformers.

Moscow deputies, meanwhile, insisted on presenting a slate of 55 candidates, including reformist Boris Yeltsin, for 29 seats

A senior NATO official, asked by reporters in Brussels about the report, said, "Our delegations here on the spot have not been apprised of this." He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The government of West Germany, where about 250,000 US troops are stationed, declined to comment on the newspaper report. Spokesman Herbert Schmulling said: "We have no official word of such a decision."

In his departure remarks, Bush provided no hint of a significant American counter to recent Soviet arms proposals. He said, "The importance of the alliance and its democratic underpinnings is the message I now take to Europe."

At Andrews Air Force base, "NATO has been a success by any measure but success breeds its own challenges. Today, dramatic changes are taking place in Europe, East and West. For us, those changes bring new challenges and unparalleled opportunities."

Bush expressed hopes to see a Europe "that is truly free, united and at peace," and repeated his desire to move beyond the cold war policy of containment "to integrate the Soviet Union into the community of nations."

Bush added: "We welcome the political and economic liberalisation that has taken place so far in the Soviet Union and in some countries of Eastern Europe. We watch hoping that more changes will follow."

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has agreed to impose ceilings on Soviet forces stationed in Eastern Europe, US officials said Wednesday.

In a parallel move, the officials said, Gorbachev suggested that no country be allowed to have more than 35 per cent to 40 per cent of the combined manpower totals of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

The proposals were the latest in a series of arms control initiatives by Gorbachev.

The Soviets also pulled back from a recent threat to stop destroying a missile covered by last year's treaty covering medium-range nuclear missiles, the Washington Post reported in yesterday's editions.

The missile is the SS-23, one of the weapons that will be taken apart under the intermediate-range nuclear forces pact that went into effect last year.

Manfred Woerner, who is NATO's chief executive, said failure to settle the dispute over nuclear weapons would be "a rather unfortunate situation but it would not be a crisis or a catastrophe."

Amid growing doubts in Washington that a settlement was near, Woerner said in Brussels he would like the allies to reach an agreement "and avoid the impression of being split in an important matter."

The summit, called to mark NATO's 40th anniversary and its success in keeping the peace in Europe, was thrown off track in advance by a dispute over short-range nuclear missiles in central Europe.

Genscher said today the West could end Soviet superiority in SNF arsenals only through negotiations, and he chided "disarmament preventers" in NATO who seek new missile deployments instead.

Harms convicted Strydom last week of killing seven people and wounding 15 blacks in a rampage on the sidewalks of downtown Pretoria on Nov 15. A week earlier, Strydom had killed a black woman and wounded another at a squatter camp in what he described as a practice attack to determine if he was ready for a larger-scale massacre.

After standing impassively for an hour while Harms read his ruling, Strydom gulped a glass of water when the sentence was pronounced.

Harms is under special police protection for fear of revenge attacks by extremists, newspapers reported today.

In another case, fourteen black men and women were sentenced to death today for the 1985 mob killing of a black policeman, although only four were found to have physically contributed to his death.

Prague expels four Britons

Tit-for-tat measure

PRAGUE, May 26, (Reuters): Czechoslovakia ordered three British diplomats and a businessman out of the country today in response to Britain's expulsion of four members of the Czechoslovak embassy in London.

The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry summoned Britain's ambassador in Prague and accused the four of unacceptable behaviour, the British Embassy in Prague said.

The three diplomats being expelled were embassy first secretaries Rick Todd and Anthony Arnold and press secretary Patricia Holland, the embassy said. Also ordered out was Shell Oil's Prague representative Nicholas Brooks.

Mirroring the British action, Czechoslovakia gave the four 14 days to leave, the embassy said.

The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry had earlier declined to comment on the possibility of expulsions and Czechoslovak officials were not immediately available for comment.

Prague took reciprocal action last September when London ordered the expulsions of two Czechoslovak diplomats for spying.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said Czechoslovakia had acted despite a British appeal not to retaliate for yesterday's expulsions.

He said Britain's ambassador in Prague, Laurence O'Keefe, was summoned by the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry and told the four Britons were guilty of "unacceptable activities," diplomatic jargon for spying.

"We regard this as totally unjustified," the spokesman said. "We are considering what our response will be."

Britain last week ordered out 11 Soviet diplomats and journalists for alleged spying and Moscow retaliated in kind.

Thatcher told Parliament Britain would act against East bloc spies whatever the consequences for international relations.

Nuclear war may start at sea

STOCKHOLM, May 26, (Reuter):

The United States and the Soviet Union are embarked on an uncontrolled nuclear arms race at sea where the risks of escalation are much higher than on land, a Swedish-based strategic institute said.

A new book from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said that between a quarter and a third of the world's nuclear weapons were naval, a total of some 16,000 nuclear warheads.

"Despite the assumption that nuclear weapons will never be used even in a US-Soviet war, it is more than possible. The possibility need not be large to pose a catastrophic and unacceptable risk," said authors Richard Fieldhouse and Shumji Taoka in the book *"The Superpowers at Sea."*

Because of communications problems, political control over naval commanders was weaker than over land forces. In a crisis naval chiefs might feel pressured to behave as though they had authority to fire their weapons, the researchers said.

Political leaders might also feel that use of nuclear weapons could be limited to sea since their use would not involve attacks on national territory or civilians.

There was also the risk of accidents, illustrated by the recent fire which resulted in the sinking of a Soviet nuclear-armed submarine off the north coast of Norway.

The authors said there were no efforts currently under way to negotiate arms control at sea and prospects of starting such talks soon were virtually non-existent.

"The US simply refuses to recognise the topic and even to state or defend its policies and positions," according to the US Navy view, naval arms control is a danger," the book said. The authors urged a reconsideration of this attitude, saying the dangers of not doing so were unacceptable.

Comparing the superpowers' naval forces, the book found that the US held a considerable advantage over the Soviet Union which was likely to widen in the next 10 years.

The Soviet submarine fleet was likely to shrink from 370 to around 230 vessels by the end of the century as ageing vessels were retired. The Soviets lagged far behind in such areas as torpedo technology, giving the West an overwhelming superiority.

There was a similar situation regarding surface ships, where the Soviet fleet was expected to contract by a third over the next decade.

At the same time, the US Navy had more nuclear weapons than the total arsenals of China, Britain and France and more than all other navies combined.



Panamanian riot police guard the hotel where the OAS delegates met with opposition leaders. (Reuter wirephoto)

US waging 'war'

Noriega asks Japan to help solve crisis

PANAMA CITY, May 26, (UPI):

Military strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, warning of possible US "aggression," yesterday asked Japan to help solve the political crisis that has rocked Panama since the fraudulent presidential elections on May 7.

Noriega, in an interview with the Japanese news agency Kyodo, called on "the good offices of Japan" to help negotiate a settlement to the crisis, according to a statement released by the Panamanian government's National Information System.

There were no other details of Noriega's request and no immediate response from the Japanese government.

Japan has expressed great interest in helping revitalise the ageing Panama Canal in addition to investigating the possibility of constructing a second canal in Nicaragua.

In asking for Japanese mediation in the crisis, Noriega charged the United States with "waging psychological war against Panama," the statement said.

When asked about the possibility of a US military intervention in Panama, Noriega said: "They have already intervened — the United States has already launched a diplomatic, psychological and economic offensive against Panama."

"Now we face the danger of US military aggression," Noriega told the Japanese journalists.

Noriega also alleged the US planned to violate the Panama Canal treaties, which call for transfer of control over the waterway to Panama by the year 2000.

Meanwhile, opposition vice-presidential candidate Guillermo Ford said yesterday he and his running mates — presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and vice-presidential candidate Ricardo Arias Calderon — were hoping to hold a second round of talks with the four-member negotiating team from the Organisation of American States, currently in Panama in an effort to help resolve the crisis.

■ Noriega placed her land reform secretary on leave today after he conceded "indications" of wrongdoing in his purchase of an estate at six times its assessed value.

Aquino told a news conference that she also approved indefinite leaves for 20 other officials and employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform pending an investigation of the estate purchase.

She said she wanted an independent investigation to remove any cloud that may hang over her one-year-old land reform programme, which the President described as her administration's most important programme.

The scandal has occupied the front pages of Manila newspapers for more than a week. It centres on the Agrarian Reform Department's purchase last December of 1,889 hectares (5,100 acres) of land from the obscure Sharp Marketing International Philippines Inc. at 62.2 million pesos (\$3 million).

Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Juico, who was placed on leave, had approved the purchase but then ordered payment withheld after the president of a government-owned bank questioned the price.

■ Jurors in the conspiracy trial of anti-Marcos activist Steve Psinakis heard FBI telephone taps Wednesday purporting to show calls between Psinakis and a St. Louis doctor arranging for the purchase of detonation cord.

Deported from Bulgaria

Turks flown to Turkey

VIENNA, Austria, May 26, (AP): About 130 ethnic Turks who recently arrived in Vienna after their deportation from Bulgaria were flown to Turkey today.

The Turkish embassy in Vienna, which arranged the flight, said 50 more people belonging to Bulgaria's Turkish ethnic minority of 900,000 were waiting in this city for transport to Turkey.

Ethnic tension in Bulgaria flared last weekend when thousands of Turks demonstrated in northeastern Bulgaria, demanding restoration of their rights as a minority, emigre and diplomatic sources said.

Bulgaria officially admitted that three people died and three others were injured in clashes with security forces, but an exile source said the casualty figure was much higher.

In a major campaign in 1984-85, the minority Turks were forced to assume Bulgarian-sounding names. They were also restricted in their religious rights and in the use of the Turkish language in public.

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At the same time, the US Navy had more nuclear weapons than the total arsenals of China, Britain and France and more than all other navies combined.

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Aquino won't lift ban on Marcos

MANILA, May 26, (AP): President Corason Aquino said yesterday nothing can make her reconsider her decision to ban Ferdinand Marcos from returning to the Philippines.

Meanwhile, more than 500 Marcos loyalists marched to the US embassy for a rally demanding that the United States return their leader. They claim the US kidnapped the Marcoses and forced them into Hawaiian exile.

Guards and employees of a government-run corporation beat up one of the demonstrators after he exchanged shouts with Aquino supporters. The man suffered cuts on his lip and forehead and bruises all over the body.

The statement was the strongest so far by Aquino since she imposed the ban on Marcos' return shortly after the February 1986 popular uprising that ended his 20-year rule and swept her to power.

On Monday, Aquino said she would refuse to allow the ailing Marcos to return from exile in Hawaii and would not permit him to be buried here.

Marcos' wife, Imelda, said the former president's followers would refrain from violence if Aquino relented. In a radio interview broadcast here Wednesday, she said the Marcoses would comply with any condition the government sets for Marcos' return.

Asked for comment, Aquino said yesterday: "I have already explained in detail the compelling reasons why the government cannot allow the return of Marcos. Such reasons cannot be affected or altered by the imposition of conditions. Accordingly, the government is not willing to consider the imposition of conditions on the return of Mr Marcos."

Aquino also said the government's efforts to recover the billions Marcos allegedly embezzled in office would continue even after his death.

Officials have accused the Marcoses of stealing up to \$10 billion in government funds and other assets. The government has filed about 40 civil suits against the Marcoses but has not filed criminal charges.

On Tuesday, Marcos' doctors said only life-support systems were keeping the 71-year-old former president alive. They said Marcos was suffering from failures of the heart, kidneys and lungs, as well as a massive infection.

■ Aquino placed her land reform secretary on leave today after he conceded "indications" of wrongdoing in his purchase of an estate at six times its assessed value.

Aquino told a news conference that she also approved indefinite leaves for 20 other officials and employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform pending an investigation of the estate purchase.

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Mass arrests in Ethiopia

Military high command replaced

PARIS, May 26, (Reuters): Ethiopian security officials backed by East German advisers have been rounding up hundreds of civilians and military officers following a failed coup last week, a rebel group said on Thursday.

The Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party, one of several groups battling the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, said in a statement in Paris that nearly 400 people arrested across the country were now in prison.

The group said it was still receiving reports of the arrest of officers and civilians from several Ethiopian towns including Asmara, capital of Eritrea where guerrillas have fought a secessionist war against the Addis Ababa government.

Ethiopian state radio announced on Wednesday night that Mengistu had replaced his entire military

high command, naming a new armed forces chief of staff and commanders of the Army, Navy, Air Force and police.

Mengistu also replaced the general who had been leading the 28-year war against secessionist rebels in Eritrea, who was killed by loyalist soldiers when the coup was put down.

Rebel officers mounted the coup as Mengistu was beginning an official visit to East Germany, which has supplied arms and advisers to the Marxist Ethiopian government. He rushed back to announce the rebellion had been crushed.

The rebel statement said that despite a government order to teachers to keep the main university in Addis Ababa open, students were continuing a boycott of classes in protest against the arrest of 12 of their leaders following clashes with security forces on Monday.

White South African racist mass murderer sentenced to death

PRETORIA, May 26, (AP): A white policeman who testified that blacks were not human was sentenced yesterday to hang for killing seven blacks and an Indian man in two shooting sprees which he hoped would provoke a race war.

Justice Louis Harms described the crimes as barbaric and said there were no extenuating circumstances to spare

Barred Strydom, 23, from the gallows. The killings were committed "in an unfeeling and cold-blooded manner that I have never before experienced or heard of," Harms said. "Mass murder or racial murder will not be tolerated by this court."

The trial was one of the most dramatic ever in South Africa, with relatives of the black victims and white extremists supportive of Strydom crowding into Pretoria supreme court for two weeks to hear detailed testimony about the defendant's racist beliefs.

Harms convicted Strydom last week of killing seven people and wounding 15 blacks in a rampage on the sidewalks of downtown Pretoria on Nov 15. A week earlier, Strydom had killed a black woman and wounded another at a squatter camp in what he described as a practice attack to determine if he was ready for a larger-scale massacre.

After standing impassively for an hour while Harms read his ruling, Strydom gulped a glass of water when the sentence was pronounced.

Harms is under special police protection for fear of revenge attacks by extremists, newspapers

Arab summit supports PLO

(Continued from Page 1)

The Lebanese Parliament would then meet in Beirut to ratify the document and elect a president who would form a government of national reconciliation which would amend the constitution to "guarantee freedom, justice and equality."

The process is not to exceed six months.

The leaders also condemned "continued Israeli aggression against Lebanon and its sovereignty" and called for implementation of Security Council Resolutions 425 of 1978 concerning withdrawal of Israeli forces to Lebanon's international borders.

No peacekeeping or observer force was appointed in Lebanon, as had been envisaged.

Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who heads the Muslim cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, declared support today for the resolution seeking to end the Lebanese civil war within six months.

There was no immediate reaction from the rival Christian

cabinet under Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun, which held an emergency session at the shell-ravaged presidential palace in suburban Baabda east of Beirut.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Assad's archrival, stormed out of the conference and boarded a flight to Baghdad before the final session of the four-day summit started, delegation sources said. The state-run Iraqi News Agency said Saddam had "previous commitments."

But Arab diplomatic sources said the Iraqi President was enraged that the wrangling on the Lebanon issue did not lead to a reduction of the Syrian troops in Lebanon.

The Arab leaders deeply regretted the recent ethnic clashes in Mauritania and Senegal and appealed for a return to normal relations between the two countries.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah paid a visit to Arafat today.

See partial text of communiqué. (Page 6)

Quit Lebanon, Iraq tells Syria

(Continued from Page 1)

Saddam reportedly questioned the Syrian stand asking: "How can we expect a strong Lebanese government when it is under the military occupation of Syrian and foreign troops?"

It is feared that the outcome of Wednesday's heated discussion between the two leaders could reflect on the Lebanese crisis, which could turn into a war between Arabs.

Sources fear that the war might reach Damascus as it is not difficult for General Michel Aoun to acquire long-range missiles capable of hitting the Syrian capital. Sources said Arab leaders are doing their best to avoid such a development.

The presence of Iranian forces has added to the trouble in Lebanon.

The prospect of an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation is receding due to the difference of opinion on the Lebanese crisis. Even a mini-summit between the Presidents of Iraq and Syria, along with other Arab leaders, is not expected to lead to a true reconciliation between the two countries.

Discussions at the Arab summit sessions, held in camera, were conducted in an atmosphere of "frankness". At one such session, Saddam is said to have asked why Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi had attended the summit when he "suspects" the intention of why it was called, informed sources said.

Palestine possible 'if Israelis go mad'

Shamir rejects PLO

MADRID, Spain, May 26, (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today ended the first-ever official visit to Spain by an Israeli head of government and was quoted as saying a Palestinian state could be created only if "Israelis went mad."

Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud bloc in Israel, left for home just before noon after touring a synagogue in the medieval city of Toledo to end his two-day visit.

Meanwhile, in an interview published today by Spain's leading daily El Pais, Shamir said creation of a Palestinian state could occur "only if one day the Israelis went mad."

He reiterated Israel's rejection of talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, saying, "It's not just that they are terrorists and continue attacks although they have said they renounce terrorism."

"We believe such negotiations would be useless. The minimum demand of the PLO is that we accept the creation of a Palestinian state, something we are not prepared to do," Shamir told the newspaper. "If we were to accept negotiations the whole world would interpret that as Israel accepting the principle of a Palestinian state."

"I don't believe in the creation of a Palestinian state as a solution to the problems of the region," he said.

The Israeli leader arrived Wednesday in Madrid from London on a tour of European capitals to seek

support for his peace plan, which calls for elections among the 1.7 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza territories.

Both Spain, the current holder of the six-month rotating presidency of the 12-nation European Economic Community, and the EEC members view the Israeli peace plan and elections as insufficient.

Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez said the Israeli plan failed to accept direct talks with the PLO and excluded an international Middle East peace conference favoured by the EEC.

Shamir yesterday urged Arab leaders meeting in Casablanca to negotiate with Israel and take concrete steps to show they want peace in the Middle East.

Shamir, said Arab states hold the key to peace and a solution of the Palestinian problem.

Meanwhile, the United States, under fire from Israel and some American Jews for a speech by Secretary of State James Baker, on Wednesday declared its wholehearted support for an Israeli peace initiative.

Reacting to Shamir's dismissal of Baker's advice as useless, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said some of the Israeli leader's comments at a London news conference "were positive, some were not."

"The secretary has the highest respect for the prime minister. We are wholeheartedly supportive of his election proposal," she told reporters.

Shamir has said he was shocked by some of the remarks made by Baker, calling on Tel Aviv to meet Palestinian political rights.

In an interview with the Jewish Chronicle newspaper published here today, Shamir claimed that what Baker had said about the Israeli stand "was not correct and useless."

In a speech earlier this week, the US Secretary of State urged Israel to forswear annexation and reach out for the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Ariel Sharon, Israel's most charismatic and controversial politician, is leading a right-wing revolt against Shamir's peace plan and the government's failure to put down the Palestinian uprising.

In Jerusalem, a military court acquitted four soldiers of manslaughter yesterday in a case that centred on the Army's policy of beating Palestinians, but convicted the defendants of brutality in a fatal beating of an Arab.

Israeli troops shot and killed an 18-year-old Palestinian and wounded at least 35 others, including a six-year-old boy, in clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip, Arab hospital officials said.

A proposed Israeli law that would allow the confiscation of property from Palestinians with suspected links to terror groups was blasted Wednesday by left-wing Israeli legislators as a tool for collective punishment.

A British surgeon yesterday accused the Israeli Army of interfering with medical services for Palestinians injured in the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr Pauline Cutting, on a fund-raising tour of the Gulf for Medical Aid for Palestinians, a British charity, also said she had seen armed Israeli soldiers interrogate patients in hospitals and sometimes take them away against medical advice.

Riyadh keen to boost defence

LONDON, May 26, (Reuters): Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz said in remarks published yesterday that Riyadh wanted to improve its arsenal of defensive weapons.

"The kingdom is serious about getting what it sees is necessary to guarantee the security and safety of its lands," Prince Sultan told the Saudi-owned weekly Al Majala.

The latest edition of the London-based weekly quoted Prince Sultan as saying the kingdom had ordered an undisclosed number of weapons from the United States. He gave no details.

TV shows Iranian leader Khomeini gets out of bed

NICOSIA, May 26, (Agencies): Iranian Television yesterday showed supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini on the operating table as doctors worked to stem bleeding in his digestive tract.

His doctors said in a bulletin read on Tehran Radio that Khomeini, 86, was making a good recovery from the operation on Tuesday and had left his bed for the first time yesterday.

The television showed about a dozen doctors and male nurses bent over Khomeini in the operating theatre, tubes connected to his extended left arm. No female nurses were in sight.

The medical bulletin said: "Bleeding has been completely controlled and there has been no need for any transfusion of blood since the surgery. The imam (Khomeini) today left his bed and rested on a chair."

Doctors said the condition of his heart, blood pressure, pulse, breathing and kidneys remained satisfactory, the radio said.

Khomeini asked Iranians today to pray that the Lord will accept him after his recent operation, Iran's official IRNA news agency quoted Parliament speaker Hajatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, as saying.

Iranians sacrificed sheep today for the health of Khomeini.

The man to lead Iran after Khomeini is likely to emerge from a handful of clerics who have survived 10 years of tumultuous revolution.

Chief among them is Ali



Khomeini says his prayers in a hospital bed.

Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who seems certain to win the presidency in elections set for August.

But no clear candidate has emerged for the top job of vali-e-faqih, the spiritual leadership now held by Khomeini.

Complicating matters is the debate now raging over the way Iran should be ruled, including the balance of power between president and vali-e-faqih.

Many analysts say that a constitutional review by a 25-man panel appointed last month by Khomeini could lead to a future president wielding more clout than the vali-e-faqih.

Against this shifting background, Khomeini's son Ahmad has emerged as the wild card in

the political pack. A major problem in predicting the figure is that while Khomeini himself bestrides the political scene like a colossus, no other leader can impose his will upon Iran's policies.

■ Former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar yesterday denounced a declaration by European Parliament members urging the United Nations to throw out Iran and admit an Iranian opposition group in its place.

Iran described the European Parliament today as a gathering of mediocre politicians and said its statement condemning Tehran's "medieval regime" was best ignored.



Palestinian map

Palestinian youths, their faces covered in keffiyehs, hold up a wooden map of 'Palestine' at a memorial for five Arabs killed by Israeli border police in April. The map shows Palestine encompassing Israel as well as occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kabul forces on the offensive around Jalalabad

KABUL, May 26, (Reuters): Afghan government forces have moved onto the attack against Muslim rebels besieging the eastern city of Jalalabad and plan to push them back to the border with Pakistan "within a short span of time," a Kabul spokesman said yesterday.

Mohammad Amani, spokesman for the Soviet-backed Afghan government, also welcomed the reported replacement of Pakistani intelligence chief Lieutenant-General Hamid

Gul, saying it indicated Islamabad was rejecting the military option.

"His replacement is a strong step towards peaceful settlement by the Pakistani side," Amani told a press briefing.

He said Afghan forces had now regained the initiative around Jalalabad. "Until 10 days ago I can say we were defending Jalalabad. But now we are in an offensive position and we are launching an offensive

against the enemy."

"It is our hope and desire that in a short span of time we will clean Jalalabad and Nangarhar province... up to the border with Pakistan," he said.

He said four people had been killed and seven wounded by rebel rockets hitting Jalalabad in the past 24 hours and government troops had killed 49 mujahideen rebels and wounded 39 others.

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GC 7310P-1
3-Burner Unit with 1 "Keep-Warm" Burner.

GC 7500P-1
3-Burner Unit with 1 "Keep-Warm" Burner.

GC 7600P-1
3-Burner Unit with 1 "Keep-Warm" Burner.

GC 7700P-1
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GC 7



Al Houti

Action taken on citizens requests

KUWAIT, May 26, (KUNA): Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti has praised the recent meeting between HH the Amir and ministers of services, affirming that it has given a greater impetus to employees and workers on all levels.

HH the Amir conferred last week with ministers of services and their under-secretaries and governors to look into citizens wishes, which were presented to him during his tour of the various governorates.

In an interview with KUNA, Houti added that instructions by HH the Amir called for periodic meetings for the ministers of services and chief engineers to examine those wishes and put them into effect whenever possible.

He noted that HH also emphasised the necessity of providing health care for all areas of Kuwait, namely by constructing enough hospitals and clinics to absorb as many patients as possible.

Houti affirmed all the ministries' adherence to HH's instructions to the letter, that they have co-ordinated among themselves not to start pavement work in any area before all the proper services are ready available.

The public works minister said that he will soon start his programme of field visits of the governorates to get acquainted with wishes of citizens, noting that these visits aim at following up and examining the quality and progress of work.

He stressed that only the honest and hard-working employees and contractors will keep their jobs.

In conclusion, the minister expressed hope that citizens would understand the nature of executing big government projects, particularly those relating to roads, which he said require long months of strenuous work.

Houti Wednesday made an inspection tour of a number of under-construction highways.

The minister, accompanied by Under-secretary Mohammed Al Sane and other officials began the tour with the Gazali Highway where he instructed site employees to do their utmost for speedy completion of the project.



Brazilian delegation

Minister of Information Jaber Mubarak Al Hamed Wednesday received a delegation from a Brazilian newspaper, currently on a visit to the country to prepare a supplement on Kuwait. The delegation praised Kuwait's civilisation advance in various fields.

During the two-week visit, the delegation met with a number of ministers and senior state officials.

IN THE COURTS

Maid acquitted

THE court of Misdemeanour has acquitted a maid from the charge of stealing money and gold jewellery from her employers' house. The employers claimed that the maid identified as Mary opened the small safe and took her passport besides KD 50 in cash and several other pieces of gold.

In the court, the maid denied the allegations adding that the husband gave her the passport after she signed a paper waiving her rights to four months' salary.

The police, while investigating the case, found the safe to be in a good condition and there was no attempt to force it open.

Sexual assault

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to 5 years jail followed by deportation for molesting a 4-year-old girl. The man saw the girl playing outside her home and joined in the game. He then took her to a passage separating two buildings and sexually assaulted her. Witnesses called the police and in the police station, the accused confessed to the crime but in the court denied it and said he was compelled to write the confessions by the police officer and the father of the girl.

The defence said that the defendant did not assault or rape the girl but the court saw in his actions as attempted rape.

The court determined that the confessions of the defendant were given to the prosecution without any pressure and the prosecution noted that he was not beaten during the interrogations.



Iraqi Planning Minister Samal Faraj (left) and Kuwaiti Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi signing the memorandum of understanding.

Kuwait, Iraq ties develop

Co-operation accord signed

KUWAIT, May 26, (KUNA): Kuwait and Iraq yesterday signed here a memorandum of understanding on co-ordination and strengthening of bilateral co-operation in the fields of development and planning.

Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi signed for Kuwait and his Iraqi counterpart Samal Faraj signed for his country.

The memo stipulates encouragement and development of investment fields in order to boost objectives of development plans in the two countries and exchange of expertise. It also stressed the importance of training required cadres to work in development fields in both countries.

Following the signing ceremony Faraj said the memo would further strengthening economic, political and social ties between the two sisterly countries.

Awadi said the memo was a reiteration of the continuing co-operation between the two countries.

He expressed hope that the memo would be a nucleus for co-operation and planning integration between all Arab countries.

Awadi said on Wednesday that Kuwait's political leadership is fully aware of administration needs and, therefore, it concentrated on developing national cadres as an indepletable resource.

Awadi, who was speaking at a

meeting with a number of administrative leaders, pointed out the close relationship between administration and planning and development.

He called for developing the administrative systems and the applied regulations.

Undersecretary at the Civil Service Commission Abdel Aziz Al Zabin spoke about the role of government bodies in developing performance.

Assistant Undersecretary Dr Nasser Al Sanea talked about means of following up administrative development plans through development programmes in co-ordination between the Civil Service Commission and the Ministry of Planning.

8th anniversary

Officials, citizens praise GCC

ESTABLISHING the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is an advanced measure towards the Arab comprehensive unity which will achieve solidarity and integration in Arab economic, political and social areas.

The GCC has deepened friendship and fraternal relations among the member states.

On the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the GCC, a local daily interviewed some officials and citizens to highlight the occasion.

Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, the governor of Al Sabah, said that co-operation among Arab Gulf countries is a long established process and is not a result of new developments. He added that the customs and the traditions of the region's people are identical.

Speaking of the GCC performance, Sheikh Ali said that the council realised several achievements in the political and economic fields in addition to its prominent performance in the field of joint defence.

Assistant Undersecretary for Medicine and Medical Supplies Affairs at Kuwait Ministry of Public Health was quoted as saying that establishing the GCC in intended to upgrade co-operation and co-ordination among member states, and with time these objectives will be realised.

Assistant Undersecretary for Transport Affairs at Ministry of Communications Saeed Al Sudan said that he was pleased with the GCC performance, which surmounted hurdles impeding progress of the Arab Gulf countries. He described the GCC march as part and parcel of the Arab effort and called on GCC citizens to interact and uphold the Arab national interests.

The daily also interviewed Bahrain's Ambassador to Kuwait Issa Al Jamea who was quoted as saying that the council has realised a lot of the region's aspirations. GCC citizens are now looking forward to developing natural and human resources. He praised the efforts exerted by the GCC leaders to achieve the council's objective and lauded the eighth anniversary of GCC establishment.

The GCC has achieved a lot particularly towards solidarity and interdependence among member states. As a result of GCC establishment the tourism sector in the member states has increased during the last eight years.

Citizen Adnan Malallah said that the GCC had unified the region and enhanced the social and economic co-operation among the GCC countries.

Discipline good

Students satisfied with their exams

DIRECTORS of educational areas have been quoted as confirming that the students are satisfied with the examination procedures.

In an interview with the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the officials said that the examinations were going smoothly and no significant problems had been reported.

The officials attributed the students' satisfaction to the strict actions taken to avoid cheating saying that disciplinary action has succeeded to a great extent towards curbing the problem.

They added that all the examination centres had been provided with the necessary facilities to enable the students to take their examinations in an appropriate atmosphere.

Meanwhile, the head of the examination committee at Al Siddique Secondary School, Abdullah Yusuf said that the examinations this year were distinguished by an atmosphere of calm. He added that supervision was good and the students abided by the regulations.

The head of the examination committee at Maan Bin Zaidah

School, at Abdullah Al Salem suburb, Abdulaziz Al Salami, said the number of the students examined under the supervision of his committee amounted to 395 and absences had been reported.

He added that the examination process was in accordance with the regulations and no cheating had been reported, attributing it to the strict actions and control practiced by the ministry and the examination committee.

Meanwhile, the principal of the Bonn, West German based Arab School Dr Waleed Al Sharief expressed appreciation for the kind hospitality extended by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education to his school students who came to Kuwait to perform their examinations.

He confirmed that the students had expressed satisfaction over the examination programmes, adding that his students are studying the Kuwaiti curriculums.

He clarified that the study at his school is based on the co-education system, confirming that the school is committed to Islamic traditions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cables

KUWAIT, May 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Thursday sent a cable of congratulations to Jordanian monarch King Hussein Bin Talal on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness also sent a similar cable to the President of Argentina on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Baluchistan meet

ISLAMABAD, May 26, (KUNA): Nawab Akbar Bugti, the chief minister of Pakistan's western province of Baluchistan, had a meeting Thursday with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Pakistan Qasim Omer Al Yaqout.

Held at the residence of Ambassador Al Yaqout in the diplomatic enclave here, the meeting lasted about 45 minutes.

During the meeting the Kuwaiti Ambassador and the Baluchistan chief minister, who heads the Baluchistan National Alliance, discussed matters of common and mutual interest between Pakistan and Kuwait.

Envoy honoured

ROME, May 26, (KUNA): Kuwaiti ambassador to Italy Ahmed Gaith Abdullah Wednesday gave a dinner banquet in honour of the Arab League Ambassador here Mehna Darra, who has been transferred to the league headquarters in Tunis.

The dinner was attended by the Arab ambassadors accredited here, including the newly-appointed Arab League Ambassador Hassan Aziz and well-known Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish.

Contract signed

KUWAIT, May 26, (KUNA): State Minister for Housing Affairs Nasser Abdullah Al Roudan Wednesday signed a contract with a local company for construction of a police station in the West Fintas housing project.

The construction, costing KD491,000, will be completed within 400 days, according to the contract.

US Senator

KUWAIT, May 26, (KUNA): The Kuwait Red Crescent Society has dispatched a shipment of relief aid to the victims of floods in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the society said in a statement released Thursday.

Red Crescent aid

KUWAIT, May 26, (KUNA): The Kuwait Red Crescent Society has dispatched a shipment of relief aid to the victims of floods in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the society said in a statement released Thursday.

WEATHER

NORMAL summer weather with moderate north-westerly wind may break at times.
State of sea: Slight to moderate
High water: 5.30 am, 3.00 pm
Low water: 10.00 am, 11.00 pm
Sunrise: 4.30 am
Sunset: 6.40 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 45°C 113°F
Ahmad: 39°C 102°F
Fahala: 39°C 102°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 25°C 77°F
Ahmad: 31°C 88°F
Fahala: 31°C 88°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 45°C 113°F
Ahmad: 39°C 102°F
Fahala: 39°C 102°F
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 20 per cent
Ahmad: 36 per cent
Fahala: 35 per cent



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Acer FESTIVAL

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4.30 pm to 8.30 pm

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- ★ Lan servers
- ★ Workstations, monitors
- ★ Laser printers
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- ★ Office automation
- ★ Graphics
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ص.ب. ٥١١٣ السافت - ١٣٠٥٢ - السافت الكويت

هاتف: ٢٤١٧٦٦٧ / ٧ فاكس: ٢٤٥٩٠١٩ تليكس: KCS 22790

Telecommunications meet

Transfer of technology needed

NICE, May 26, (KUNA): Kuwait called on the developed countries to contribute to the solution of problems faced by developing nations, so as to create an equal world community in the use of telecommunications.

In delivering the Kuwaiti call before the 13th plenipotentiary conference of the International Telecommunications Union, which began Tuesday, Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan suggested greater transfer of telecommunications technology from the advanced to the less developed nations.

He said the conference must take into account the inability of developing nations to catch up with the

latest technological progress.

Sharhan stressed that independence of communications systems requires constant improvement to services, modernisation of communications technology and the availability of communications to all members of society at reasonable rates.

"Independence is not just a commercial venture for the benefit of invested capitals, but should rather have sweeping advantages to the international community," the Kuwaiti Minister said.

Concluding, Sharhan pointed out that Kuwait has presented a work paper containing proposals not only on the conference agenda but also amendments to the status and convention.

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Health information campaigns stepped up

THE Director of Health Awareness Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Dr Hussain Al Moemen will adopt an intensified health awareness campaign throughout the country.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the campaign aims at upgrading health knowledge among citizens and the expatriates.

A new guidebook to be published by the department will contain information on the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and will be distributed to people who would like to spend the summer vacation abroad.

The book will be distributed in co-

operation with Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) and the other border centres.

Meanwhile, Dr Al Moemen said that his department is planning to set up a comprehensive programme aimed at establishing an integrated programme this summer.

These programmes will include awareness seminars to be organised in co-operation with the ministries of Education and Social Affairs and Labour and the public welfare societies.

Dr Moemen disclosed that next Wednesday will be a national no-smoking day when smokers will be urged to give up the habit.

Meanwhile, Dr Al Moemen who is also the head of the School Health Department

was quoted as saying that 50 cases of measles had been recorded in the country's schools this year noting that this figure has dropped from the 2,000 cases recorded five years ago.

He confirmed the ministry's efforts to eradicate the disease through implementing a comprehensive inoculation campaign which began five years ago and realised a significant outcome.

He added that his department was re-evaluating the inoculation programmes from time to time in order to make sure it is efficient. He added that the School Health Department will organise a competition on AIDS and smoking, noting that the competition will include poems,

photographs and articles. Prizes will be distributed to winners by the end of the summer club season.

He added that the competitions will be organised in co-operation with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Kuwait Anti-smoking and Cancer Society.

The official called on parents to take their children for the necessary medical check-up for students joining school for the first time during the next academic year.

The department's centres will remain open during the summer season. No child will be admitted without conducting the check-up, the official said.

Public support for breast milk bank

Islamic approval required

A BANK for breast milk, a concept which may be new to Eastern society was first established 50 years ago in the West and was developed at centres in England and 30 centres in the US. It also reached South Africa, India and then the Philippines.

Three years ago, Dr Anderson, a researcher announced that these banks are not good ideas as they may be factors that help the spread of AIDS.

of her milk to children who need it. But she expressed fear that some donors may have diseases which may spread to children through the milk. She added that the idea should first be approved by Islamic consultants and Muslim before it is put into practice.

She described milk donation as a humane act which all women should agree upon. She expected a large response from mothers if the bank was established.

Kuwait. Her husband, Bashar Al Meedani supported his wife's view and urged other mothers to donate their milk if the bank existed.

Meanwhile, Doctor Fuad Al Bhai, the head of the paediatric section at the medicine college of Al Azhar University in Egypt said that mother's milk is the ideal and complete food for babies. He supported the idea of a breast milk bank, because he said that children who don't have mothers have a right too in receiving natural milk.

Dr Osama Al Sayed, a doctor who obtained a Masters degree on breast milk banks, said that the bank is an organised service to find donors. The milk is then collected and tested for contamination and then stored, distributed or sold.

He supported the idea of the bank and urged mothers to breast feed their babies if possible.

Mothers are given special containers from the bank so they can collect the milk at their own houses. In the second process mothers come to the bank and the milk is collected by special pumps under the supervision of doctors. The collected milk is then kept under four degrees of temperature, to preserve its quality and is then sterilised, he said.

He added that natural milk provides babies with essential nutrients and antibodies not available in powdered milk.

A local daily interviewed a number of mothers, doctors and religious consultants to throw light on the issue from medical and religious aspects and also to find out if mothers will answer the call for donating their milk.

A number of residents wondered if the idea would affect the role of mothers and rule out the need for powdered milk. Generally, scientists, doctors and religious men pointed out the importance of this issue, but disagreed on whether Islamic prohibits or allows this step.

Most women welcomed the idea on the condition that it is approved by Islamic rulings.

A number of Islamic consultants believed that there is no need for a bank and therefore it should not be discussed. However, the Egyptian, Mufti said that there are no objections to the idea both from a religious and health point of view.

Muna Abdul Mehsin, a Kuwaiti mother described the idea of storing breast milk as good. She added that she will be the first woman to donate some



H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah pictured at the head of the Kuwaiti delegation during the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca.

Qaboos visit a success

KUWAIT, May 26, (KUNA): Omani Information Minister Abdel Aziz Rawas described the visit to Kuwait by Sultan Qaboos of Oman as "successful" and the two Arab leaders materialised their countries' joint hopes and future expectations.

The Kuwaiti weekly magazine "Al Yaqza" published here Wednesday said Sultan Qaboos and H.H. the Amir of Kuwait agreed on opening new channels of bilateral co-operation.

His talks with the Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad tackled various issues in addition to information co-operation, the weekly added.

Rawas welcomed Egypt's return to Arab ranks, noting that his country has always been against boycott of Egypt.

He also voiced support to the Palestinian people's rights which is part of Oman's foreign policy.

Over the Gulf war, Rawas said, "we have to support the peace process as much as we can" and to change the truce into permanent peace.

Meanwhile undersecretaries of the information ministries of the GCC states praised the proposal of the editors-in-chief of the GCC daily newspapers to hold periodical meetings.

But the GCC information officials said it was difficult to carry out a detailed visiting schedule for editors-in-chief of the dailies. This came at the end of a meeting held by the undersecretaries in Riyadh to prepare for the fourth meeting of the GCC information at the GCC general secretariat.

Triplets making progress

A 20-YEAR Lebanese woman identified as Hanan K. gave birth to triplets at Adan Hospital last week, according to a hospital official.

Dr Abu Bakr Mohammed, the attending physician who has supervised the patient's progress from conception, said that the woman became pregnant after three years of marriage and delivered simultaneously a baby boy and two baby girls.

The woman had been diagnosed as having triplets during the second month of pregnancy. Delivery was by Caesarean section. The boy weighed 2.1 kg, and the girls 1.54 kg and 2.15 kg respectively.

All three infants have been confined to the intensive care unit and are reported to be doing well. The first and third infants are expected to leave the unit within ten days.

Secondary exam switch

GCSE recognised

THE Ministry of Education is reportedly considering to equate the British certificate GCSE with the Kuwaiti secondary education certificate, whereby graduates with British GCSE certificates could join Kuwait University faculties, applied education institutes and training centres of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The ministry's Educational Research Centre had of late tabled a proposal recommending the proposed equation of certificates following the pattern of English schools at Kuwait which in turn followed the example of British schools using the new certificate instead of the old GCE.

Students seeking to obtain the GCSE certificate must complete 12 years of education, the same length of time a student in Kuwait must complete before obtaining the secondary education graduation certificate, while using the same prescribed curricular subjects.

Meanwhile Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education Abdul Rahman Al Khudari has said that the closure of private educational institutes was prompted by their failure to abide by the authorised line of business which covers vocational and professional education but offering the same curricular material used by official schools.

He said that the ministry's decision to close private institutes was based on the need to sort out the problems caused by hiring ministry teachers by the institutes to work for them without prior ministry approval.

Other problems included the assignment of teachers to prepare model exam questions and answers which would be made available to students in return for payment, and preparation of summarised accounts of curricular subjects which students began to use as a primary study material instead of the prescribed books.

On the other hand, he added, the ministry encouraged special tuition sessions, held at the schools outside official hours, where subjects would be taught by a selected number of qualified teachers, in line with a pre-determined set of constraints.

Ministry confirms constant electrical power for summer

No programmed cuts

MINISTER of Electricity and Water Dr Humoud Al Rqabah in a seminar organised by Kuwait Society for Studies and Specialised Research said that 65 per cent of the power production in Kuwait is used for air-conditioning and 11 per cent for factories and workshops.

Rqabah expected that the maximum load of electrical current will total 4,200 megawatts this summer marking an annual increase of 6-7 per cent.

He confirmed that there will be no programmed power cuts this summer as the ministry has ensured that power production exceeds demand.

"We will not suffer from any problem in this field until 1993 the year in which Sibbiya power station will start working," the official said. He added that the other reason for power cuts is accidents or disasters that cannot be predicted, but he added that programmed power cuts are different from those due to maintenance that is usually carried out in winter. For this the power is cut for only two hours after informing the public about the time and duration of the power cut through the local media.

Rqabah pointed out that Kuwait will be supplied with two kinds of Shatt Al Arab water, one for drinking and the other for irrigation. The first stage of irrigation water will be on an average of 200 million gallons a day and with a maximum of 500 million gallons and taken from Haritha area of Basra Governorate in Iraq.

He added that the first stage of supply of drinking water will be an average of 350 million gallons a day from Bedia area and with a maximum capacity of 700 million gallons a day. There is no doubt that arrival of Iraqi water to Kuwait will sharply reduce the cost of water, the official said.

He added that the ministry is very interested in changing the asbestos water pipes to ductile iron pipes to solve the problem of leakage. Treating redness in drinking water showed good results in some areas such as Dasmah, Keifan and Abdulla Al Saleem suburb. People there noticed an improvement in the drinking water, he said.

He added that present underground water pipe network cover 90 per cent of housing areas in Kuwait. The other areas will be supplied with water by the network very soon, he said.

Regarding the cost of electricity in Kuwait, the minister said that it cost six fils a kilowatt for domestic use and four fils for industrial use before March 1984.

He added that it dropped to 5 fils and four fils on April 1, 1984 and two fils for domestic use and one fil for industrial use in June 1986, the price that is still charged today.

No rabies in Kuwait

THE head of public relations at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries, Ramadan Al Bawab has stressed that Kuwait is free of rabies because of vaccinations given to licensed dogs owned by residents and farmers.

He commented on the story published by a local newspaper last week about the increasing number of stray dogs in farms of Abadali and Wafra, by saying that it is difficult to control this problem in the remote areas and farms, and the health department of the authority has prepared a plan to destroy these animals. The authority is studying the project, the official said and appealed to owners and workers at farms to bury animals that die in their farms as soon as possible in order to prevent spread of diseases.

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Egyptian interior minister

International aid will reduce hijacks

By Sayed Othman

ASSISTANT to the Egyptian Interior Minister Maj Gen Ahmad Fahmy said yesterday that the continuation of international co-operation in fighting terrorism and aircraft hijacking, would certainly help security agencies all over the world defeat criminal designs and protect the security of passengers.

He added that the security forces will continue their extensive efforts to combat terrorists by applying strict scrutiny measures in all airports.

Maj. Gen. Fahmy is currently visiting Kuwait in an Egyptian delegation to promote tourism to Egypt. Commenting on the arrest of several Egyptian artists for drug addiction, Fahmy said that this should not affect the good reputation of the many Egyptian artists who enjoy the respect of their Arab fans. But at the same time, he demanded the issue of a strict legislation to punish drug dealers and persons who help spread drug addiction in any way.

Regarding promotion of tourism in Egypt, Fahmy said that the government will solve all problems facing foreign and Arab tourists. The main problem of taxis would be solved by the establishment of a taxi company that would iron out all the problems and improve the service.

REQUIEM MASS

for **Walter DeSouza**

will be held at The Holy Family Cathedral at 4 pm on Saturday 27th May 1989 (Body will be flown to India)

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KUWAIT ENGLISH SCHOOL

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE time to stop a revolution is at the beginning, not the end — Adlai Stevenson, US statesman-politician (1900-1965).

Partial text of communique

Arab summit hails intifada

CASABLANCA, May 26, (Reuters): This is a partial text of the final communique of the emergency Arab summit which ended in Casablanca today.

"At the initiative of His Majesty King Hassan II, the King of Morocco, and at his invitation, the emergency Arab summit conference met in Casablanca from May 23 to 26, 1989.

"In its opening session the conference welcomed the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt led by President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak and Egypt's resumption of its full membership of the Arab League ... and expressed its conviction that Egypt's presence in its natural place among fellow Arab states would help reinforce joint Arab action ... bringing benefits, honour and prosperity to the Arab nation.

"The conference hailed the intifada of the Palestinian people ... and decided to continue providing all forms of support and assistance to it, so that the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, its sole legitimate representative, can continue its resistance and escalate the heroic intifada against the Israeli occupation.

Condemned

"The conference condemned the crimes of the Israeli occupation and its practices against the Arab people in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and called on the Security Council to carry out its duty towards these crimes and practices, including the possibility of imposing sanctions on Israel.

"The conference affirmed the foundations on which is based the Arab peace plan endorsed by the 12th Arab summit in Fez and reaffirmed by the emergency Arab summit in Algiers, the foundations which aim to liberate from Israeli occupation Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967 and to enable the Palestinian people to practice their inalienable national rights, including the right to return, to self-determination and to set up its independent national state with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation ... and to mobilise Arab resources in various fields to achieve an overall strategic balance to confront aggressive Israeli plans and to safeguard Arab rights.

"The conference welcomed the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council and affirmed its support for the Palestinian peace initiative based on the Arab peace plan and on international legitimacy.

"The conference blessed the creation of the independent Palestinian state, expressed its determination to support and assist it in all ways possible, expressed its appreciation of the friendly states which have recognised it officially and called on the other states in the world to give the state full recognition and enable it to exercise its sovereignty over its national territory.

"The conference supported the holding of the international conference for peace in the Middle East, with the participation of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, with the aim of reaching an overall settlement on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973 and all other UN resolutions on Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and agreement on security guarantees for all states in the region, including the state of Palestine, and solving the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948 and to consider that all relevant UN resolutions still provide the terms of international legitimacy which guarantee the right of the Palestinian people to set up its independent state.

Committee

"The conference approved the formation of a higher committee chaired by King Hassan to act and make the appropriate international contacts in the name of Arab League with the aim of activating the peace process and taking part in preparations for the international conference.

"The conference supported the Palestinian position on the subject of elections — that they should take place after Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territory and under international supervision and in the framework of a comprehensive peace plan, seeing that the Israeli plan aims to strike at the intifada, bypass the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The conference affirms the need to insist on Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian and Arab territory and to place the occupied Palestinian territories under UN supervision for a temporary period to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its right to self-determination.

"The conference expressed its extreme concern at what is happening in Lebanon, which is founding member of the Arab League and which has always helped to reinforce joint Arab action.

"The conference studied with great interest the tragic situation in Lebanon and its repercussions and effects on Lebanese unity and the national security of the Arab nation and affirmed the need for Arab action to reach a solution which restores to Lebanon its stability and security and safeguards its Arab nature and territorial unity.

"The conference praised the mediation efforts of the Arab committee of six and urged all the Lebanese parties to co-operate to reach overall national reconciliation and achieve the national entente which would pave the way for final solution of the Lebanese crisis in all its aspects.

"The conference asked all the Lebanese parties to respect the ceasefire immediately, permanently and fully in line with the Arab League council resolution of April 27, 1989.

"The conference decided to form a committee composed of King Hassan II of Morocco, King Fahd Bin Abdel Aziz of Saudi Arabia and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria.

"This committee will have the task of carrying out the contacts and measures it deems fit with all the parties concerned with the aim of creating the right atmosphere for summoning members of the (Lebanese) parliament to discuss a political reform document. This should happen within six months at the latest. The conference also announced it was willing to convene at the end of this period if necessary to look at what has been achieved and at subsequent developments.

"It similarly supported Lebanon's international efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and to support the extension of sovereignty of the Lebanese state fully over all Lebanese territory with the objective of protecting its security and stability by its own forces.

"The conference ... expressed its deep satisfaction at the end of fighting (in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq) and at the start of negotiations.

Ceasefire

"In the belief that the ceasefire should be a turning-point on the way to bringing about a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran and stability, security and peace in the region, it expressed its hope that the ceasefire could quickly be transformed into peace.

"The conference affirmed its total solidarity with Iraq in protecting its unity, territorial integrity and historic rights to sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab.

"The conference affirmed the need for the Arab media to adhere to ethical and pan-Arab standards and to avoid insults and practices which inflame disputes.

"The conference affirmed its resolution and the resolution of the Arab League council condemning the US attack on the great socialist people's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and deplored the economic boycott measures which the United States has taken against Libya and called for the need to lift these measures. The conference similarly expressed its support and backing for Libya's sovereignty over the Gulf of Sirte in line with international charters.

"The conference renewed its condemnation of terrorism in all its shapes and forms and whatever its source and affirmed the need to rely on legal methods approved by international charters and to adhere to the principles of right, justice and international legitimacy in defending national interests and achieving noble aims."

Iran contemplates life without Khomeini

No clear successor to the Ayatollah

By Simon Martin

NEWS that 86-year-old Ayatollah Khomeini had surgery for internal bleeding set millions of Iranians contemplating the unthinkable — Iran without Khomeini.

"Praise be to God, his condition is completely satisfactory," Tehran Radio said after last Tuesday on the supreme leader, whose enraptured followers' once reported seeing his face in the moon.

The condition of this country, after a tumultuous decade of war and faction-fighting, is far less stable, with no clear successor to the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Khomeini's operation came three months after he threw his weight firmly behind fundamentalists seeking to safeguard Iran's militant anti-Western brand of Islam.

Stern

With the stern gaze and white beard Khomeini stamped his austere character on the Islamic Revolution that overthrew the autocratic monarchy of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979.

The revolution devoured many of its children in bloody purges of young militants and the carnage of the eight-year-war against Iraq, in which of hundreds of thousands of lightly-armed volunteers were sent to their deaths.

Khomeini said his decision last year to accept a UN brokered ceasefire without overthrowing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was like drinking poison.

"Happy those who are gone martyrs ... and woe to me, I who am still here and have swallowed the poisonous glassful of accepting the resolution," he said in a Radio Broadcast.

The Asceticism which helped endear him to millions of impoverished Shi'ite Muslims has marked every feature of his life. For more than eight years, he never left a small, cheaply-furnished but closely-guarded home in north Tehran.

While in exile, he kept his house outside Paris cold when heating fuel was short in Iran and later moved out of one Tehran home because it was too luxurious.

Described as kind to his family, he follows iron discipline at home. "Everyone begins to worry if he

does not enter the room exactly at ten past one for lunch," his daughter told a magazine last year.

His personal feelings are a mystery. Asked what he felt on returning in triumph to Tehran in 1979, he replied: "Nothing."

Told of the death of his beloved eldest son in 1977, he said three times: "We are of God and we return unto Him," — then went on with his daily schedule.

Khomeini, who personally endorsed the 1979 seizure of US embassy staff as hostages in Tehran, has been undaunted by the impact of his blood-curdling rhetoric outside Iran.

His call for Muslims to kill British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy outraged the West and marked a severe setback for pragmatists pursuing a more conciliatory line.

In March he sacked his designated successor, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazer, for advocating human rights, leaving the nation leaderless in the event of his death.

Iranian opposition groups say Khomeini is grooming his 42-year-old son Ahmed to take over. Ahmad, despite holding no office, has apparently sided increasingly with the radicals.

Parliament speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, until recently regarded by the West as a pragmatist, was the man who persuaded Khomeini to accept a Gulf war ceasefire last August and is regarded as the front-runner for the leadership.

Cheers

Khomeini spent his first 60 years as a theological student and teacher. It was not until the early 1960s that he became the leader of fundamentalist resistance to the pro-Western Shah.

Exile to Iraq in 1964, he continued to work against the Shah through a network of sympathisers in Iran. When the regime faltered in 1978 in the face of nationwide strikes and protests, Khomeini emerged as the symbol of opposition.

On February 1, 1979, 15 days after the Shah fled Iran, Khomeini flew back from France to the cheers of millions.

Fundamentalists in the revolutionary power struggle were boosted by the seizure of the US embassy in November 1979 and the outbreak of war with Iraq the following September.

Tearing into the communist system

Solidarity mounts lively challenge in Poland

By Andrew Tarnowski

EVEN the communists say Solidarity is running the best and brightest campaign in Poland's first partly-free parliamentary elections since 1947.

A month after emerging from seven years of illegality, the independent union is leading an energetic opposition challenge that is outclassing the communists' lacklustre campaign.

"I am riding the Solidarity tank to freedom," declares Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, punching the air at rallies across the country and pledging to crowds of thousands that the next elections in four years will be fully democratic.

Solidarity candidates are standing for every seat in a new 100-seat senate but for only 161 in the 460-member Sejm (lower house). That is the maximum 35 per cent they can contest under a pact with the communists and their allies.

The other 65 per cent of the Sejm have been allotted to pro-government groups and will be contested only among their members in the two rounds of voting on June 4 and 18.

By Western standards Solidarity's campaign is strapped for cash, low-key and unobtrusive in much of the countryside as it battles to win control of the senate and 35 per cent of the Sejm.

Its access to the media consists of 500,000 copies of a single election newspaper in a country of 38 million people, and radio and TV broadcasts of up to 20 minutes each daily.

It faces a nationwide spoiling campaign with many posters torn down or defaced. On some the word "Jew" has been scrawled.

Even so, Solidarity's campaign is the liveliest Poland has seen in 40 years.

"Come with us — solidarity," says huge banner outside its main Warsaw election office as protest songs from Solidarity's 1980-81 first period as a legal trade union blare across the monumental Stalinist-style Constitution Square.

Queues snap up Solidarity stickers and lollipops, get voting information and make donations as trams rattle by with freshly-painted Solidarity election ads on their sides.

At other offices balloons fly Solidarity banners or volunteers sell T-shirts with the Solidarity candidate's name.

Snappy jingles introduce Solidarity candidates on radio and TV billboards, shop windows and church noticeboards sprout posters with the familiar Red-and-White Logo flying the Polish flag.

Rallies

At election rallies across the country, Solidarity candidates tear into the communist system, telling the crowds their votes can dismantle dictatorship and start lifting Poland out of backwardness.

Solidarity election managed forecast almost clean sweeps in Big City strongholds like Warsaw, Gdansk and Krakow.

In the villages, where Solidarity is weaker and less organised, parish priests are openly giving crucial support in this overwhelmingly Catholic country.

Both camps forecast a big turnout, possibly 80 per cent. Some communist officials agree with opposition estimates that Solidarity will win 70 per cent of the seats it is contesting.

With less than two weeks to go, the communists are apparently beginning to realise they are outclassed.

"Official propaganda looks pale compared with the opposition campaign," wrote Daniel Passent, deputy editor of the communist party ideological weekly Polityka.

"The difference of temperament, vigour, commitment, enthusiasm and combativeness is visible," he added. "Solidarity has things which the others do not have — a message and the enthusiasm with which it proclaims it."

Information minister Jerzy Urban, a star official candidate running as a non-party independent in Warsaw, grumbled that Solidarity's team looked unstoppable.

"I am worried that Solidarity is forgetting about pluralism," urban complained to 300 student cooks at his first election meeting. "Solidarity is marching towards electoral victory in serried ranks."

Officials even wonder whether top communists like Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski and seven other politburo members on a special 35-man "nationalist" will get into the Sejm.

Candidates on the list face no opposition but need 50 per cent of the votes cast to be elected. Officials angrily accuse Solidarity of urging voters to cross out the entire list. Unsigned posters have appeared in Warsaw telling them to do so.

UN making contingency plans for Cambodia

Soviets, Vietnamese disapprove

By Victoria Graham

THE United Nations is quietly making contingency plans for a peacekeeping presence in Cambodia, despite Soviet and Vietnamese opposition to a major UN role.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a recent speech that the world body is prepared to help negotiate an end to the Cambodian civil war and could dispatch peacekeeping troops and observers to monitor the Vietnamese pullout and free elections.

Time is running out, however, because Vietnam has promised to withdraw all of its 60,000 to 70,000 troops from Cam-

bodia by the end of September. Only now has possible UN involvement become an issue, and the matter is expected to be discussed when an international conference on Cambodia convenes in August in Paris.

So far, the United Nations has had no official involvement in Cambodia, although the secretary-general's special representative, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, has visited the region several times and his secretariat office is developing plans for a future role.

The UN Security Council's five permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France — have been meeting informally

to discuss the situation and some kind of international control mechanism to oversee the pullout, maintain law and order, and monitor elections.

But Vietnam and its Soviet allies don't want a UN presence because the 159-nation General Assembly has refused to recognise Cambodia's Vietnam-installed government.

Every year since the Vietnamese invasion in December 1978, the assembly has condemned the occupation and has seated the opposition coalition as Cambodia's legitimate government.

Vietnam's UN Ambassador, Trinh Xuan Lang, told the Associated Press that Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos — the

three communist Indochinese nations — accept the role of the UN secretary-general in his personal capacity. But they oppose any UN peacekeeping role until the Cambodia seat is left vacant.

"If and when the UN decides to de-recognise democratic Kampuchea (the three-party opposition coalition) and leave the seat vacant, then and only then we may consider a larger role for the UN," he said.

"The General Assembly must decide to leave the Kampuchea seat vacant at the very least and maybe revoke its past resolutions (condemning Vietnamese occupation)," he said. "Then we may talk about the UN."

Soviet Ambassador Alexander M. Belonogov also said recently: "If a solution is found to the problem of representing Kampuchea (Cambodia), then I do not exclude that the attitude toward a UN role might be different."

Western diplomats, however, said they did not foresee the General Assembly suddenly abandoning its condemnation of the Vietnamese occupation and leaving the seat vacant before a complete Vietnamese withdrawal.

While the UN presence is one of several issues in the current conflict, it is not the most divisive and does not stand in the way of a settlement.

(AP — United Nations)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mud-slinging without purpose

SIR: The following clarification is in response to some letters about the Pakistan School, appearing in the Arab

Times newspaper over the past fortnight.

The various charges labelled therein are baseless. I sincerely wish, this resort to newsmedia should have been made after the concerned parents had obtained necessary clarification

Pity the rich in Kuwait

SIR: I would like to comment on Zabeed Matar's column (AT, May 23) in which he expounded the virtues of Ahmed Jarallah's "I want to live rich rather than die rich" philosophy.

I do not dispute their views but I do question whether people in this country know what it means to live a rich life. I am under a strong impression that living rich for some amounts to little more than the fulfilment of their own selfish interests, acquiring new "toys" and flaunting one's wealth. Misers or not, as Mr Matar says, many people in Kuwait live poor lives. It is not for me to tell anyone that there is more than shopping, but watching the rich I cannot but pity their misery.

J. Smith, Salmiya.

Have mercy on pedestrians

SIR: Pedestrian bridges in Kuwait do not have sunshades and therefore, one has to cross them walking in the blazing summer sun. Have any of the people in charge of these bridges ever walked up and down a bridge in the middle of a summer day? Please, gentlemen, fit sunshades to those bridges and spare the poor walkers this unnecessary hardship.

V.S. Salmiya.

tion from the school administration.

The Board of Trustees has time and again been requesting parents through circulars to come forward with their complaints and suggestions but nobody has bothered to do so. This was done due to restrictions from the ministry, that a general body meeting could not be held during the last year-and-a-half.

Such a campaign of mud-slinging with flimsy charges will not serve any useful purpose. The school has always welcomed healthy and constructive criticism.

The present principal has been appointed on a temporary basis to relieve Mrs Saleha Rahim, in view of the Ministry of Education's requirements. He is a highly qualified and successful lecturer. The case of the new principal from Pakistan is still pending with the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

The present board has played no part in the appointment of vice-principals. They are there for the last over 12 years and we have been mon-

itoring their performance.

The honourable parent Arif Saeed Malik should have had the courtesy to investigate the above facts. He also should not have used degraded words like "unworthy" for principal and vice-principals of the school.

Another parent has stooped so low that he starts questioning the ability of the principal to spell the word "English", which only reflects the mental level of the concerned gentleman and needs no clarification or comment.

There has also been a suggestion for the Pakistan embassy to interfere. I am sure, the honourable parent has not forgotten the episode of the International School of Pakistan and its present status. Does he want this school to meet the same fate?

I assure the parents that the Board of Trustees is actively engaged in raising the educational standards, as well as improving the financial position of the school which has been in the red for the past over ten years. We are hopeful to break even over a period of three to four years.

I would sincerely request all parents to kindly refrain from such activities which might damage the reputation of this august institution or even put its very existence at stake. The school has been showing impressive results for the past few years, and let us all co-operate and work for its further betterment.

Dr Hameed Afzal Malik, Board of Trustees, Pakistan School, Kuwait.

Get tough Cory, Benazir

SIR: I am dismayed at the demand by a section of the Filipino people calling for the return of Marcos. Do people really have such short memories? Have they forgotten how he looted and plundered their country, his disregard for human rights and the number of political opponents killed including the brutal murder of Corason Aquino's husband, Ninoy Aquino.

Frankly, Aquino has been too soft on Marcos and his

cronies. Because of her commitment to democratic ideals, civilised norms of behaviour and her innate goodness, she has not embarked on a policy of revenge. These ungrateful people however, have responded by attacking her at every turn and undermining her authority.

The other 'daughter of the East' Benazir Bhutto, should also learn from Aquino's experience. There is no need to be over-charitable and forgiving to your enemies especially when they are not prepared to extend the same courtesy to you. Both these ladies have come to power by lawful means and have a mandate from their people. They should not take any nonsense from undemocratic opponents.

Chary Santos, Surra.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

مكتبة النخيل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Oil exporters stick to \$18 price

Kuwait won't propose OPEC to raise output

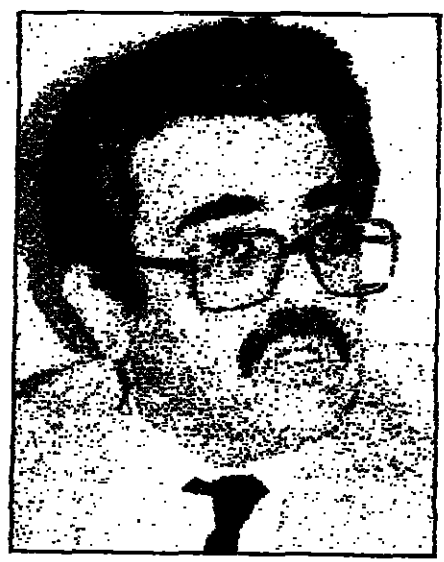
QUITO, May 26, (Reuters): Kuwait's oil minister said his country will not make a specific proposal for OPEC to raise its total production ceiling at the group's June 5 ministerial conference in Vienna.

"Kuwait is not going to make any specific proposal although we have some figures in mind. But the most important thing is that we try to work out a methodology which takes into account the level of demand which should satisfy the organisation," Sheikh Ali Khalifa told a news conference.

Sheikh Ali also said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries had not changed its goal of an \$18 per barrel average price for 1989.

"We have never spoken of \$15 per barrel as a goal," he said. Sheikh Ali was apparently referring to a report in the Middle East Economic Survey which said Saudi Arabia would propose a floor price of \$15 per barrel.

Sheikh Ali arrived in Ecuador on Tuesday for a 24-hour official visit during



Sheikh Ali

which he met with President Rodrigo Borja and Energy and Mines Minister Diego Tamariz.

"The conversations have centred on the possibility of increasing OPEC production levels and the way in which we could distribute such an increase among the member countries," Sheikh Ali said.

Sheikh Ali denied rumours in the market that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were planning to flood the market once OPEC agrees to a production increase for the second semester, above the current level of 18.5 million barrels per day.

However, Sheikh Ali predicted that OPEC will face difficulties in the June 5 meeting.

"There are at least two great problems: determining the level of the production increase during the second semester of 1989 and how to distribute it among the 13 members," he said.

OPEC said on Wednesday that oil output by 12 of its 13 members was in line with their assigned quotas but it had not figures

from the United Arab Emirates.

The OPEC news agency said figures supplied to the group's secretariat showed that the 12 sold 17.5 million barrels per day (BPD) in April.

If industry estimates of daily sales of about 1.5 million from the UAE are added, the total of 19 million is not far above the 18.5-million-BPD ceiling currently set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

OPEC said actual wellhead output by the 12 nations came to just under 18.5 million BPD.

OPEC only counts actual sales for quota purposes and not oil which members may pump and hold in their own stocks.

Western industry sources despair of getting reliable figures for OPEC sales as their estimates tend to be of wellhead output.

On that basis, again with the UAE added in, OPEC's own figures would put it at around 20 million BPD.

Industry estimates are for at least 20.5 million BPD.

Call to reconstruct Faw

Saddam issues order

ATHENS, May 26, (UPI): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has ordered the reconstruction of the oil city of Faw at the head of the Gulf. Arab diplomatic sources said today.

Hussein issued the order after a Cabinet meeting in Baghdad last week, saying the reconstruction of Faw should begin June 25, and all government bodies which took part in the reconstruction of the southern port city of Basra, should participate in rebuilding Faw.

Faw, located on a peninsula with the same name, lies some 325 miles (520 km) south of Baghdad. It was the site of a major attack across the Shatt Al Arab estuary in February 1986, capturing "tens of millions of barrels" of oil stored there.

Iraqi troops retook Faw April 18 last year, in a surprise attack launched simultaneously with an assault by US naval forces on Iranian oil platforms in the southern Gulf.

The recapture of Faw marked a turning point in the 8-year Gulf war, indicating a weakening of Iranian forces. Tehran agreed to a ceasefire three months later.

Faw was almost completely levelled by the Iraqis before their retreat. Foreign journalists

who visited the city after it was retaken, found only a mosque and a few empty shells of houses left standing.

Hussein ordered that "Arab architectural styles" should be used in rebuilding the city, the sources said.

Faw was a major Iraqi oil export point at the head of the Gulf before the Iran-Iraq war erupted in September 1980. Iraq stopped exporting oil through its Gulf terminals during the war, because of the danger of attacks on tankers by the Iraqis.

Since the Aug 20 Iran-Iraq ceasefire last year, Iraq has resumed exporting oil from Umm Qasr, one diplomat said. Faw may become the second export port after the oil port is rebuilt, he said.

The state-owned Iraqi News Agency reported last week that Iraq has rebuilt the war-battered portions of Basra, Iraq's second largest city some 275 miles (440 km) southeast of Baghdad.

Basra, also a port city on the banks of the Shatt Al Arab, was heavily pounded by Iranian artillery as of 1982, when Iranian forces recaptured Khorramshahr and Abadan, on their side of the estuary.

INA said Housing and Con-

struction Minister Tahir Mohammad Hassan reported to the Iraqi President May 14 that reconstruction work in Basra, begun Feb 12, had been completed.

Hassan said that personnel working on building, paving and levelling projects in Basra had completed their work and were standing by to move to Faw. Three days after the report, the Iraqi President ordered the reconstruction of Faw to commence June 25.

The reconstruction of Basra and Faw, on the West Bank of the Shatt Al Arab, was taking place about the same time as the Iraqis were rebuilding the war-battered cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan, on the east bank of the estuary.

Iran began rebuilding the Abadan refinery, also on the east bank of the Shatt, almost immediately after the Aug 20 ceasefire, and announced the completion of the first phase of reconstruction on April 1.

Thursday, the Iraqis celebrated the recapture of Khorramshahr from the Iraqis in May 1982, after some 3-1/2 years of occupation. Like Faw, Khorramshahr was completely destroyed by the Gulf war.

Novel protests

India to hire new doctors to break strike

NEW DELHI, India, May 26, (AP): The government said it will hire 500 physicians to break an 11-day strike by doctors, who took to the streets today singing the protest song "We shall overcome."

More than 3,500 doctors at New Delhi's 11 government hospitals walked off their jobs in a wage dispute May 16, severely curtailing free and low-cost medical services for the capital's poorest people.

Health Ministry spokesman D.N. Chaturvedi said the government is authorising administrators at all 11 hospitals to replace the strikers, temporarily or permanently.

Dr Rohit Parasher, a strike leader, dismissed the government's latest move to end the strike, saying "we will not be scared by this strategy to spread fear among the doctors."

He said the strike would continue indefinitely and the doctors were launching "novel protests," including street plays and torchlight processions.

The strikers staged a street play today outside Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain Hospital, parodying the government and the state-run television, Doordarshan. The doctors have accused Doordarshan of biased coverage of the strike.

Overcome

At the end of the play, a chorus sang "We shall overcome" in Hindi as striking doctors and supporters banged tin drums and clapped their hands.

Since Monday, the strikers have been running out-patient clinics in tents outside nine of the struck hospitals. Parasher said the doctors were distributing free medicine as "an expression of our deep anguish and concern for our patients."

The government hospitals have remained open, staffed by 800 senior doctors, but most patients were discharged on the eve of the strike and few new ones have been admitted.

The New Delhi doctors were joined in the strike by 1,400 others in Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Banaras and Aligarh.

The striking doctors earned between Rs. 3,200 (\$200) and Rs. 4,300 (\$269) a month. They want an increase of Rs. 850 (\$53) a month. The strikers are junior hospital staffers. Nearly all are resident physicians.

They also want the government to increase their allowance for not maintaining private practice from Rs. 250 (\$16) a month to Rs. 650 (\$40). Doctors who work for the government are not allowed to have private practices to supplement their incomes.

KD rates steady in slow trade

KUWAIT, May 26, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates were generally steady yesterday in a market that saw little activity, dealers said.

They said liquidity was tight in the short dates. Trade was reported in overnight and tomorrow next at 9-1/2 per cent and in spot next at 9-1/4.

One week was unchanged at 10 and one month steady at 9-1/2. Two and three months firmed a marginal 1/8 point to 9-3/8 and 9-1/2.

Six months traded at nine after a single bank began offering funds. One year was quoted at 9-1/4 to 9-7/8.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar to dollar exchange rate from 0.29680/90 to 0.29724/34 on Wednesday.

IMF approves first two loans

Manila to get \$1.17b

WASHINGTON, May 26, (Agencies): The IMF announced on Wednesday its first two loans based on US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's Plan to slash Third World debt.

The loans, to Costa Rica and the Philippines, were approved after the IMF's directors endorsed the Brady Plan at a contentious board meeting that ended late on Tuesday.

The International Monetary Fund's approval is a big step forward for the debt initiative, which has been repeatedly criticised as inadequate and ill-defined since Brady launched it on March 10.

"We have the first concrete outcome in terms of the resources that will be put into place at the IMF and the terms on which those will be made available," Treasury Under-Secretary David Mulford told a US House Banking Sub-committee.

The IMF board agreed that 25 to 30 per cent of its loans could be set aside to finance debt reduction. Debtor countries will also be allowed to borrow an additional 40 per cent of their IMF quota, or membership subscription in the fund, to support interest payments on the remaining debt.

Both ideas were pushed strongly by the United States, which wants to cut debt in order to ease the financial strains in politically important countries such as Mexico and the Philippines.

Washington's allies supported its strategic goals but Britain, fearing a taxpayer bailout of



Nicholas Brady

commercial banks, gave its blessing to a big role for the IMF only after a fierce struggle, officials said.

"We came very close to not accomplishing those (resource) levels for the IMF," Mulford admitted.

The loan to the Philippines total about \$1.17 billion while the loan to Costa Rica is for \$52 million.

In drawing up guidelines to implement the Brady Plan, the IMF board made two important and controversial changes in its lending procedures.

The offer was approved on Tuesday at a closed door meeting of the board of executive directors, representing the 151 mem-

ber governments that own the fund.

Officials said \$819 million will be available over three years. Disbursement of each installment depends on the country fulfilling promises about the management of its economy.

Another \$351 million will be available in case the Philippines suffers a drop in its earnings from exports. This contingency loan differs from others of the kind offered by the fund, which are usually made after there has been an actual drop in earnings.

Mulford disclosed on Wednesday that in the future, up to 25 per cent of new loans by the fund can be used to reduce old debt. The money can be spent, for example, to buy back old debt at a discount.

He said the board also agreed that a country could borrow 40 per cent — in the case of the Philippines, that would be about \$218 million — of its original contribution to the fund for what is called interest support. This money would serve as a kind of guarantee to assure banks that they would receive interest on what a debtor owed them, at least for a year or two after they had reduced the total debt.

Debtor countries will be permitted, if they can find no alternative, to build up interest arrears while they negotiate financing packages with their commercial bank creditors. In effect, the IMF, traditionally regarded as the policeman of the world financial system, will be condoning bad behaviour.

Young for Kuwait to boost trade

LONDON, May 26, (KUNA): British Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young flies to Kuwait on Sunday on a mission to boost British exports and win new investment contracts. It was announced here today.

The Department of Trade and Industry said that the trip to one of Britain's most important Gulf allies will be Young's first visit to the Middle East since he took up his post nearly two years ago.

The three-day stay is at the invitation of Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Al Khalid.

Lord Young will meet British businessmen based in the Arab Gulf country and president of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Al Saquer.

UK exports to Kuwait totalled £238 million last year against only £76 million of imports, while invisible exports such as consultancies and financial services were "significant," a spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said.

Kuwait is Britain's most lucrative Arab market after Saudi Arabia and relations between the two countries were described here as extremely good.

Lord Young recently returned from a trip to Japan and he has also been to China, India and most of Europe.

He will shortly go to the United States and plans to accept an open invitation to visit the Soviet Union.

\$20m AMF loan for Egypt

ABU DHABI, May 26, (Agencies): Egypt is to receive tomorrow a \$20 million loan from the Arab Monetary Fund.

The last loan that Egypt received from the fund amounted to \$18.3 million, signed in West Berlin last September during the meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, attended by Egypt and the Arab Monetary Fund.

The new loan which Egypt will receive tomorrow is the third given by the Arab Monetary Fund to Egypt, first of which was received in 1978.

Later Egypt's membership of the fund was suspended in 1979, only to be restored in April 1988.

Meanwhile, Egypt expects to sign a preliminary accord with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) early next month to reschedule part of its foreign debt, a government minister was quoted as saying in Cairo today.

Minister of State for International Co-operation Morris Makramallah told Al Akhbar newspaper that an IMF delegation would visit Cairo next month to sign the preliminary accord for rescheduling debts of some \$3.5 billion.

Egypt's total foreign debts have been estimated by foreign bankers at some \$50 billion.

Despite bank intervention Dollar edges up

LONDON, May 26, (Reuters): The dollar edged up today despite concerted sales of the currency by central banks led by the US Federal Reserve, dealers said.

It was the second day running that central banks had intervened in the open market to try to take more steam out of the buoyant dollar.

Dealers said the Fed was joined by the central banks of Switzerland, Britain, Canada, West Germany, Belgium, Australia, Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands.

They said the Fed sold dollars at around 1.9605 Swiss German marks just before Wall Street opened for business and within half an hour the dollar had climbed to around 1.9660 marks.

West Germany's Bundesbank was intervening for the first time since May 12 when the dollar was trading around 1.90 marks. It had even refrained from intervention earlier this week when other central banks were selling dollars after the dollar went through two marks — a 29-month high.

West German bankers have said the Bundesbank was simply staying out of the market because it saw no point in intervening while the dollar's upward momentum was so powerful. Some dealers said earlier they expected the Bundesbank to return and hit the dollar when it was falling.

Two main currency dealing

centres, London and New York, will be closed on Monday for public holidays.

The US currency had opened sharply lower in London because of reports that Japan planned to decide soon on whether to raise its key discount interest rate.

Dealers said the dollar was being held back by the possibility that a round of interest rate rises outside the United States would be needed to keep the currency down.

The dollar had started in London two pence and nearly two yen down from its Thursday finish of 1.9945 and 141.95.

Stock markets generally firmed in Europe as the dollar weakened although French shares turned lower on profit-taking.

Shares in Frankfurt closed higher with the 30-share Dax index up 3.85 at 1,375.94 and London's Financial Times Stock exchange index stood 8.6 points higher at 2,145.2 by 1430 GMT.

Earlier in Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market, shares closed at a record high.

Gold was fixed in the afternoon in London at \$365.80 an ounce against Thursday's close of \$365.

Oil prices eased in thin business. The world's most widely traded crude, North Sea Brent blend, was quoted in afternoon business around \$17.35 a barrel for July delivery against \$17.60 on Thursday.

Takeshita's departure postponed

Premier to meet Abe

TOKYO, (AP): Outgoing Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita will stay in office longer than expected because the ruling party has been unable to select his successor, party officials said today.

Ruling Liberal Democratic Party officials also said Takeshita accepted a request from party executives to take an active part in the party's search, which has been stalled since the most likely candidate rejected the post earlier this month.

Although he originally was scheduled to step down at the end of this month, Takeshita agreed today with Masayoshi Ito, head of the party's decision-making executive council, to remain in office until the party selects a new prime minister.

Officials said Takeshita would meet party secretary-general Shintaro Abe tomorrow to discuss possible choices for his replacement.

Takeshita announced April 25 that he would leave office when the fiscal 1989 budget cleared parliament to take responsibility for a sharp drop in public confidence in his administration due to the Recruit bribery scandal.

The budget bill becomes law on Sunday, but no promising candidates have emerged to replace Takeshita as head of the party.

The head of the ruling party routinely becomes prime minister because of the party's large majority in both houses of parliament.

The Liberal Democrats' search for a new leader suffered a major setback on May 13 when Ito, a reform-minded party veteran, turned down the party's attempts to persuade him to take the job.

In rejecting the party's requests, Ito cited his age, health and a disagreement with party leaders over political reform measures.

The party desperately needs a new leader with a clean reputation who can cleanse its scandal-tainted image and salvage its plunging popularity before an election for half the seats in the upper house expected in July.

Bush administration pleads for aid to poorest countries

WASHINGTON, May 26, (AP): A spokesman for President George Bush's administration pleaded with Congress on Wednesday for \$150 million to help the poorest countries with their debts.

This is a group of countries where the average citizen's income is usually a dollar a day or less. Their debts are largely to governments and international bodies, rather than to commercial banks that have lent to larger countries such as Brazil and Mexico.

"The United States is the only major industrial country that has not yet contributed," said David Mulford, just confirmed as undersecretary of the treasury for international affairs.

He said the United States would contribute no more than \$3 million in the financial year beginning Oct. 1, with the bulk of the outlay coming at the end of 12 years.

The money would go into a special account, used to subsidise interest payments, in what the International Monetary Fund calls its enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF). This is a fund within a fund that provides loans to the poorest

countries, largely in Africa, at only nominal interest.

Some of the money the United States would contribute would go to bring countries up to date on old debts they owe the fund. Because of these arrears of interest payments, the fund will not make them any new loans.

"(These) low-income countries... will be required to adopt comprehensive structural adjustment programmes," Mulford promised.

Such programmes usually call for devaluation of a debtor country's currency, which makes imports more expensive, and other austerity measures. Mulford said the United States in particular has urged the fund to find ways of easing poverty without impeding such "adjustment."

"Many of these countries, including Pakistan, Bolivia, Zaire and other key nations in sub-Saharan Africa are of significant strategic importance to the United States," he said.

He gave his testimony to the sub-committee on international development, finance, trade and monetary policy of the House of Representatives Banking Committee.

US foreign trade deficit improved in first quarter

Exports jump

WASHINGTON, May 26, (AP): The US foreign trade deficit improved sharply in the first three months of the year, narrowing to \$27.6 billion, the smallest quarterly improvement in three years, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said the imbalance between imports and US exports fell by 13.7 per cent from a fourth quarter deficit of \$32.02 billion.

The improvement stemmed from a 5.7 per cent jump in exports, which pushed sales of American goods abroad to a record of \$88.50 billion.

Imports also hit a new record of \$116.13 billion, but the 3.4 per cent increase was

smaller than the pace of export expansion.

Today's report on merchandise trade as calculated on a balance of payments basis confirmed an improvement already noted in the Commerce Department's monthly merchandise trade reports.

Those figures showed only a slightly different quarterly total, reflecting the fact that today's report excludes military sales by the US government to foreign governments.

Analysts have been heartened by the improvement in the trade deficit during the first three months of the year, saying it may mean that America's trade improvement, which had been stalled out since last summer, is finally beginning to decline once more.

President George Bush's administration is counting on further growth in exports this year to spur domestic growth with the continuing prosperity expected by the administration to bring in enough revenues to lower the budget deficit without the need to increase taxes.

The big increase in exports reflected increases in sales of industrial products, consumer goods and farm products. The 11 per cent advance in farm exports put American agricultural sales at \$10.9 billion, the highest level in almost eight years.

The rise in imports came entirely from an increase in petroleum imports, which shot up 18 per cent to \$10.8 billion.

GNP growth rate slows

Lowest in more than 4 years

SEOUL, South Korea, May 26, (AP): South Korea's gross national product grew 5.7 per cent in the first quarter of this year, the lowest in more than four years, due mainly to slow exports and intense labour disputes, a government report said yesterday.

The Bank of Korea said in a report that Korea's GNP — its total output of goods and services — totalled \$38.7 billion in the January-March period. Its rate of growth from the previous year was the lowest since 5.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1984.

It predicted, however, that the economy would pick up and eventually achieve the average 8 per cent growth targeted for this year.

South Korea's GNP grew 12.2 per cent last year.

Exports, the engine of the South Korean economy, increased 8.1 per cent in terms of price but decreased 3.5 per cent in quantity in 1989's first quarter as overall production slumped, the report said.

The brisk domestic sector, especially in the fields of finance, construction and services, made up for the lower exports so that GNP increased overall, it said.

Electricity, gas and piped water led the expansion with 14 per cent growth, followed by 11.6 per cent in construction and 9.4 per cent in finance, insurance, real estate and services, it added.

Businessman detained

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 26, (AP): Refaat El Sayed, an Egyptian immigrant who built and lost a business empire in Sweden, was ordered jailed yesterday while awaiting a verdict on charges of insider trading and fraud, officials said.

Prosecutor Hans Lindberg, in his summation at the end of the three-month trial, asked for a minimum of five years' jail and a detention order while the court deliberated to prevent El Sayed from fleeing. The verdict could take until the end of July.

The Stockholm District Court agreed there was a risk El Sayed might try to escape and ordered him held in custody.

The unconventional El Sayed became a popular figure when he bought Fermenta AB, a money-losing fermentation plant, in 1981 and turned it into the base of a financial empire. Swedish television named him Swede of the Year in 1985.

The empire began to crumble when he was discovered to have lied about his academic credentials and his stockholders began looking more closely at his management.

El Sayed was charged with defrauding creditors and putting misleading information in Fermenta's reports to improve its apparent profits. He also was accused of selling off shares just before a negative report on the company was due to be released.

He denied all charges.

EEC inflation rate surges

BRUSSELS, Belgium, May 26, (AP): The annual inflation rate within the European Economic Community rose to a provisional 5.4 per cent in April from 5 per cent the previous month, a top EEC official said yesterday.

EEC Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs Henning Christophersen said in a statement price increases were accelerating in the 12-nation trade bloc and called for "early and determined action... to signal that such price pressures will not be accommodated."

The EEC's annual inflation rate has risen steadily since the beginning of 1989 from a rate of 4.8 per cent in January.

An EEC commission study said the low inflation rates of the 1980s had come to a halt.

The rise in inflation was caused by a rebound in price for imports, notably oil and raw materials, as well as an increase in indirect taxes and wage rises in several member states, the study said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	CHG
ABBEY LIFE	272.0	
ADT LTD	184.0	
ALD LYONS	441.0	
AMSTRAD	101.0	
ARGYLL GP	209.0	
ASDA GP	168.0	
BAA	376.5	
BAT INDS	559.0	
BARCLAYS	454.0	
BASS	957.0	
BEAZER	198.0	
BEECHAMS	626.0	
BERISFORD	152.0	
BICC PLC	512.0	
BLUE ARROW	98.75	
BLUE CIRC	588.0	
BOC GP	486.0	
BOOTS CO	294.0	
BPB INDS	243.0	
BR CONM	189.0	
BR AIRWAY	00.29	
BR AEROSP	676.0	
BR GAS RG	174.5	
BR LAND	365.0	
B.P.	289.0	
B.P.FP	287.0	
BR STEEL	89.75	
BR TELCOM	261.0	
BURMAN OL	590.0	
BURTON	226.0	
CABLESHIR	534.0	
CADBURYS	351.0	
CALOR GRP	400.0	
CLINTON	870.0	
COATS VTY	170.0	
COOKSONS	334.0	
COURTAUD	346.0	
DALGETY	374.0	
DIXONS	152.0	
ENG CHINA	494.0	
ENTER OIL	552.0	
F&I BACK	164.0	
FERRANTI	104.0	
FISONS	296.0	
GATEWAY	196.0	
GEN ACCIO	973.0	
GEN ELEC	240.0	
GLAXO	383.0	
GRANADA	347.0	
GLOBE	176.5	
GLYNED	304.6	
GUARD RYL	209.0	
GNL	399.0	
GUINNESS	487.0	
HUMPHREY A	787.0	
HANSON	200.0	
HARRISON C	174.0	
HAKERS SID	741.0	
HILLSDOWN	267.0	
INT	235.0	

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	929.0	930.0
600 GROUP	132.0	132.0
A.MER TS	449.0	450.0
A.B.ELECT	379.0	378.0
A.S.U.HLD	285.0	285.0
AAB KENT	109.0	109.0
AH HLD	408.0	408.0
AARNSON	105.0	105.0
ADISON	45.0	44.0
ADVEST	178.0	177.0
ALEX MKW	202.0	203.0
ALEXON	394.0	393.0
ALLO COLL	141.0	142.0
ALLO IR B	305.0	306.0
ALLO LDM	145.0	145.0
ALLO PART	72.4	73.0
ALLIANCE	050.0	052.0
AMER DAY	50.4	50.4
AMEC	194.0	192.0
AMER TST	148.0	148.0
AMERSHAM	488.0	487.0
AM HTHC	359.0	359.0
ANGLIA SC	270.0	273.0
ANGLIA TV	289.0	287.0
ANSBACHER	179.0	180.0
APPLY	151.0	152.0
ASHLEY LA	102.0	101.0
ASU REE A	235.0	234.0
AUST REED	383.0	380.0
AUTO SECS	288.0	288.0
AVESCO	148.0	148.0
AVIS EUR	428.0	428.0
AVON RUBB	612.0	610.0
B.WEMHILL	254.0	253.0
BAILL JAP	515.0	515.0
BAILL SHI	95.4	95.0
BAIRD (W)	244.0	243.0
BANK REI	292.0	292.0
BANKER IT	90.4	91.0
BARDON GP	209.0	210.0
BARRT DEV	182.0	182.0
BAYNES C	36.0	36.0
BBA GROUP	202.0	202.0
BEAR BRND	12.2	12.2
BEATTIE J	145.0	145.0
BELHAVEN	53.4	53.0
BELLWAY	250.0	251.0
BENROSE	242.0	241.0
BENLOX HD	65.0	65.0
BERKELEY	216.0	218.0
BHH GROUP	131.0	131.0
BLK OF SCD	93.0	93.0
BLK OF L2	102.0	102.0
BLM GROUP	472.0	473.0
BUNNETT AF	98.0	98.0
BASEAS	367.0	369.0
BODDINGTON	162.0	163.0
BODY SHOP	575.0	573.0
BOOT HEIR	475.0	473.0
BORTHWICK	40.0	40.0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
FT 300	1778.8	1777.3	1777.3	1455.3
FT 500 SHR	1222.9	1218.7	1214.9	1008.8
FT ALL SHR	103.81	100.44	1097.76	926.59
FT GOV SEC	86.20	86.06	85.96	87.30
FT GOLD MN	171.2	170.4	168.1	161.9
FT MINES F	617.49	613.95	609.51	565.31
FT OIL	2023.8	2017.3	2012.3	1725.4
FT MLD DLR	141.93	141.12	141.50	139.21
FT MLD STG	133.18	133.39	133.84	115.30
FT MLD LOC	135.97	135.78	135.74	123.40

London Stock Market Report

UK STOCKS OFF DAY'S HIGHS IN LATE TRADING

LONDON, MAY 26, REUTER - SHARE PRICES WERE MAINLY FIRMER BUT OFF THE DAY'S HIGHS IN LATE TRADING AHEAD OF THE LONG U.K. SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND.

DEALERS SAID ACTIVITY TAILORED OFF IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION, AS BOOKSQUARING OPERATIONS WERE COMPLETED. THE MARKET WAS EARLIER HELPED BY BID SPECULATION IN SELECTIVE STOCKS AND REDUCED FEARS OF A FURTHER HIKE IN U.K. BASE RATES. STERLING RECOVERED SOME LOST GROUND AGAINST THE MARK AND THE DOLLAR.

BY 1532 GMT THE FTSE INDEX WAS 2.7 UP AT 1,739.3.

DEALERS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH STERLING'S PERFORMANCE TODAY HELPED DIMINISH WORRIES ABOUT A FURTHER U.K. BASE RATE RISE AFTER WEDNESDAY'S ONE POINT HIKE TO 14 PCT, THE MARKET REMAINS NERVOUS OF THE POUND'S LIKELY ADVERSE REACTION TO OVERSEAS INTEREST RATE PRESSURE.

NEWS IS AWAITED NEXT WEEK OF THE BANK OF JAPAN'S DECISION ON A DISCOUNT RATE RISE AND GROWING SPECULATION THAT WEST GERMANY COULD RAISE INTEREST RATES FOLLOWING A MOVE BY THE SWISS YESTERDAY.

STERLING CLOSED THREE BASIS POINTS HIGHER AT A TRADE WEIGHTED 93.4.

Precious Metals

LONDON, MAY 26, REUTER - GOLD BULLION ENDED THE DAY TRADING QUIETLY, WITH OPERATORS' ATTENTION REMAINING FOCUSED ON DOLLAR MOVEMENTS, DEALERS SAID.

GOLD CLOSED EASIER AT 363.50/364.00 DLRS AN OUNCE, DOWN FROM ITS AFTERNOON FIX OF 365.80, COMPARED WITH THURSDAY'S CLOSE OF 364.75/365.25 DLRS.

DEALERS SAID GOLD TRACKED THE PEAKS AND TROUGHS OF THE DOLLAR THROUGHOUT THE DAY, UNABLE TO FIND CLEAR DIRECTION. IT EARLIER REACHED A HIGH OF AROUND 368 DLRS BUT DRIFTED BACK AS THE DOLLAR RECOVERED FROM CONCERTED CENTRAL BANK INTERVENTION.

London Money Market

LONDON, MAY 26, REUTER - BRITISH INTEREST RATES WERE LITTLE CHANGED IN QUIET TRADING AFTER AN EVENTFUL WEEK WITH DEALERS SPLIT OVER WHETHER 14 PCT BASE RATES WILL BE ENOUGH TO BUY STERLING.

"IT'S BEEN A FUN WEEK BUT I'M RELIEVED IT'S OVER AND THE SUN IS OUT," SAID ONE SENIOR DISCOUNT HOUSE DEALER. AFTER THE ONE POINT BASE RATE HIKE ON WEDNESDAY AND STERLING'S MUTED RESPONSE, MANY BELIEVE 15 PCT RATES COULD BE ON THE CARDS.

"WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET," SAID ONE, ADDING THAT POSSIBLE JAPANESE AND GERMAN RATE RISES WOULD ONLY INCREASE PRESSURE ON STERLING.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG
1.6085/95	1.9585/95	6.6330/60	16.685/830	NOON
1.9590/970	3.145/159	29.43/59		FIX
6.6330/6450	10.675/693	338.5/339.1		NOON
1.7185/7195	2.7575/7607	87.54/64	25.80/86	NOON
1.2110	3.5510	112.715	33.265	FIX
1.06312	0.659911	2.07999	7.04687	CLSE
1.24085	0.788442	UNAV	8.41544	CLSE
224.71/5.02	140.02/12			NOON
SOR RATE	25/05/1989	OTHERS	26/05/1989	

BR ARROW	115.0	116.0
BR ASSETS	79.0	79.0
BR DREGI	183.0	184.0
BR VITA	260.0	260.0
BRENT CHE	141.0	140.0
BRENT WCR	393.0	393.0
BRIDON	195.4	197.0
BRITAIN SE	164.0	163.0
BRITANNIC	400.0	399.0
BRITON E	398.0	399.0
BRN & JAC	43.0	43.4
BROWN SHI	348.0	345.0
BRYANT GP	103.0	103.0
BSG INTL	74.4	75.0
BSR INTL	61.0	62.0
BUDGENS	113.0	112.0
BULLOUGH	193.0	192.0
BULMER HP	168.0	170.0
CAIRO GRP	301.0	298.0
CALENDONIA	377.0	375.0
CAMB ELEC	217.0	216.0
CAMFORD E	274.0	274.0
CANNING W	264.0	264.0
CANNON ST	227.0	228.0
CAP RADIO	84.0	84.0
CARADON	343.0	342.0
CARLOS EN	154.0	155.0
CATTLE HD	76.0	74.0
CAULDON	13.0	13.4
CEMTL TTY	777.0	776.0
CHAM PHRR	270.0	271.0
CHARTERHA	22.0	21.6
CHAS CHUR	118.0	
CHLORIDE	40.0	41.0
CHRISTIES	270.0	270.0
CI GROUP	56.0	56.0
CLAYTON	302.0	300.0
CMB PK NN	763.0	750.0
CNTRY SEC	60.4	60.4
CONLY INT	188.0	188.0
COALITE	445.0	446.0
COLOROLL	155.0	156.0
COOPERLS	226.0	225.0
COOPER F	147.0	147.0
COSTAIN	354.0	354.0
COURTS FR	196.0	195.0
COMIE (T)	139.0	136.0
COWI	190.0	191.0
CROIA INT	197.0	197.0
CRYSTALAT	133.0	133.0
CTRY PROP	264.0	227.0
DARES EST	31.2	31.0
DAVIS GDO	171.0	170.0
DAVY CORP	247.0	249.0
DAWSON GP	184.0	185.0
DELTA GRP	331.0	331.0
DEVENISH	305.0	307.0
DEWHIRST	43.4	43.0
DIPLOMA	227.0	227.0
DOBSON PK	95.4	95.0
DOPPAS GR	355.0	356.0
DOUGLASS	74.4	75.0
DOUGLAS GP	276.4	276.0
DRAYTON FE	421.0	420.0
DRAYTON C	593.0	598.0
DRG	479.0	481.0
DUMICKST	76.0	76.0
DUMDEE LD	330.0	330.0
DUNHILL	323.0	322.0
EAGLE TST	17.4	
EDIN I.T	197.4	197.4
EDMOND HD	45.0	44.4
ELECTRA	286.4	288.0
ELECTROCR	198.0	198.0
ENAP	243.0	245.0
EMESS	455.0	455.0
EMPIRE ST	176.0	176.0
ENG. INT. J	312.0	312.0
ETAN	717.0	717.0
EURO.HOME	202.0	202.0
EUROTHERM	300.0	300.0
EURLNLT UT	034.0	032.0
EURLNLT	81.4	81.0
EVODE GRP	179.4	178.0
EX.CO.LOU	214.0	216.0
EXPAMET	224.0	224.0
F&C ENTER	33.4	33.4
F&C EURO	288.0	288.0
F&C PACIF	171.0	171.0
F&C SHILL	83.0	83.0
F&C SELL	173.0	173.0
F&C HOUNS	198.0	198.0
F&C HOUNS	178.0	179.0
F&C HOUNS	252.0	251.0
FLNG JAPN	245.0	245.0
FLNG MERC	210.0	210.0
FLNG TECH	191.0	191.0
FRNBLT HD	279.0	280.0
FRONKROE	506.0	505.0
GALLIFORD	97.0	97.0
GARDINER	54.0	56.0
GEEST	277.0	278.0
GEI INTL	139.0	139.0
GERDANAT	260.0	260.0
GETSTNER	290.0	290.0
GOODE DUR	129.0	129.0
GPG	43.0	42.0
GRANPH HD	229.0	229.0
GREEN KNG	512.0	510.0
GREENLL W	295.0	294.0
GREYCOAT	499.0	500.0
GRUP TV A	68.0	68.0
GT PRYLD	377.0	378.0
GUINNESS MA	142.0	140.0
GUS ORD	625.0	600.0
GVT STRA	381.0	383.0
H'LAND DIS	214.0	216.0
NALMA	219.0	219.0
HAMMERSON	834.0	835.0
HATHWELL	69.4	69.4
HAZELWOOD	256.0	255.0
HEATCHEE	482.0	482.0
HELENE PL	32.0	32.4
HELICAL B	337.0	337.0

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
AUSTRIA	307.10	313.30	316.50	284.0
AUSTRIA	306.20	306.20	302.10	287.9
BELGIUM	463.50	462.10	463.20	445.3
CANADA	398.70	398.00	397.20	386.8
DENMARK	642.80	647.00	654.00	602.3
FRANCE	491.90	483.90	480.50	464.4
GERMANY	214.80	214.80	211.40	206.7
HONG KONG	2085.5	2293.0	2335.5	2271.2
FINLAND	129.30	128.90	128.20	128.3
ITALY	459.80	460.40	462.40	471.2
JAPAN	1501.7	1495.4	1496.2	1483.6
HOLLAND	309.80	306.70	306.50	296.8
NEW ZEAL	90.00	91.30	91.10	90.3
NOMAY	825.20	824.60	835.30	791.0
SPAIN	732.30	745.30	757.80	694.7
SPAIN	732.30	745.30	757.80	694.7
SWEDEN	1282.0	1275.3	1281.3	1247.1
SWITZER	185.00	185.40	187.70	186.7
U.K.	646.90	646.30	652.40	632.9
U.S.A	293.80	294.10	293.30	270.9
WORLD	500.90	498.40	501.00	503.4
E.A.F.E	916.00	908.50	916.80	959.2

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NEW YORK

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International Bond Highlights

LONDON: Dawa House Industry Co Ltd is issuing an 800 min dir equity warrant Eurobond due June 15, 1993 with an indicated coupon of 4-3/8 per cent and par pricing, lead manager Nomura International PLC said.

LONDON: RTZ Corp PLC said debt financing for its 4.3 billion dir purchase of British Petroleum Co PLC's minerals business comprises 3.1 billion dir of loans arranged by Barclays PLC and Morgan Guaranty Trust Co.

LONDON: Suzuki Motor Co Ltd is issuing 300 min dir of equity warrant bonds due 1993 with an indicated coupon of 4-3/8 per cent, Nikko Securities Co (Europe) Ltd said.

LONDON: Four finance subsidiaries of Elders Resources NZFP Ltd are launching a joint 500 min dir, five-year multiple option facility, Citicorp Investment Bank Ltd said.

Amsterdam: Uniebank, the bank for foreign economic affairs of the USSR, has become the first Soviet bank to tap the global market with a 250 min guilder, seven year bullet bond, lead manager Agence Bank Nederland said.

LONDON: Burlington Northern Railroad Co is launching a 300 min dir, three-year revolving credit facility to refinance existing debt and backstop commercial paper issuance, Citicorp Investment Bank Ltd said as arranger.

LONDON: Olympus Optical Co Ltd is issuing a two-tranche equity warrant Eurobond due June 15, 1993 with an indicated coupon of 4-3/8 per cent, lead manager of the 150 min dir European tranche, Yamachi International (Europe) Ltd said. Terms on the 150 min dir Asian tranche of the deal, lead managed by Nomura Singapore Ltd are identical.

New York: Moody's Investors Service said it downgraded Argentina's long-term Eurobond debt to B-3 from B-2. About 485 min dir of debt is affected.

BOMBAY

PR.	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	94	93.50	93.50	MUK IRON	114	112	111.50
ACC	322	320	320	GNFC	37.25	37.25	37.50	NAT INDEX	373.16		373.94
ALUM CHEM	---	---	---	GRASIN	123.50	122	122	NIPON	---	35	36
ALUM RYS	---	---	---	GSFC	150	151.25	147.50	NOCIL	800	805	800
ARI FAR	---	---	---	GUJ ALK	69.50	68	68.50	OKAY	23.50	22.25	23
ASHOK LEY	83	82	82	GUJ HEAVY	11.50	10.50	11.50	OSMAL AGRO	78	75	73
ASIA PAINT	180	181.25	177.50	HERO HONDA	28	26	30	PEICO	22	19	21
ATLAS COP	43.50	42.50	43	HIND CIBA	980	980	970	PFIZER	72	70.50	71.50
AUTO CORP	90	91	90	HIND COCOA	102.50	102	102	PONDS	173.75	175	177.50
BAJAJ AUTO	375	372.50	368.75	HIND LEVER	82	83	83	PREN AUTO	55	55	54
BAR RAYON	427.50	425	425	HIND MOTOR	39.65	36.50	39.25	RANBAXI	125	115	120
BE BOND	145	144	145	HINDALCO	292.50	290	287.50	RAY WOOL	80.25	79.50	80.25
BLOM PLAST	---	---	---	HOCHST	770	770	765	RECKITT	192.50	183.75	191
BON DYE	143.50	142	141	IND ORG	37	37.50	37	RELANCE	121	119	119
BSE INDEX	716.16	715.24	715.24	IND RAYON	89	88.50	88	SESA GDA	46.50	45.50	45
BURR MEL	197.50	187.50	195	INDRCL	308.75	308.75	300	SHRI FIB	86.50	85	86.50
CANSAHRE	185	175	185	INGERSOLL	355	345	345	STIEHNS	73	72	71
CEN ENKA	2500	2500	2485	ITC	100	98	100	SWF	1420	1380	1350
CEN SPG	1880	1880	1855	JK SYN	78.50	77	77	SPIC	53	52.50	52.50
COLGATE	343.75	342.50	337.50	KIN ENGG	185	180	177.50	ST MILLS	255	260	270
CONTRACT GR	980	980	990	KIR CUMM	75	73.75	75	TATA CHEM	114	111	110
DCM	63	55	56	KSB PUMPS	400	385	400	TATA OIL	66.25	65	65
DEEP FERT	27.25	27.25	28	L AND T	85.50	85.50	88	TATA PAPER	332.50	330	325
DUNLOP	85	81.25	83.75	LIPTON	75	74.50	75.50	TELCO	817.50	815	792.5
EI HOTELS	56	55	58	MAC RUSSEL	110	108.25	112.50	THRAP AGRO	---	---	---
ESKAYEY	63.50	63	62	MAD COATS	99.50	99	100.25	TISCO	1265	1262	1260
ESSAR SPG	125	125	125	MANINDRA	95	98.50	95.50	VAN ORG	165.50	164	162
FOOD SPL	22.50	22.50	22.25	MAS SHARE	19	18.85	19.15	VARELLI	26.25	25	27.50
FORBES	59	49	48	MILKFOOD	---	---	---	WIMCO	24	23.50	23
GAR POLY	67.50	65	67.50	MODI	100	97.50	95	WINETH	62	62	62
GE SHIPPING	40.50	40.50	40.75	NRF LTD	390	380	380	ZUARI AGRO	60	57.50	60

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLOSE
AEG	210.0	210.0
ALLIANZ VR	170.0	170.0
BADEMWERK	185.0	189.0
BASF	307.5	306.0
BAYER	305.5	303.3
BAYER HYP	371.0	371.0
BAYER VER	366.0	363.0
BBC	438.0	437.0
BHF	433.0	436.0
BMW	521.0	520.0
COMMERZB	246.0	244.7
CONTI GUMM	264.0	263.7
DATHEM BEN	665.0	675.0
DEUTSCH BK	523.4	520.0
DLW	542.5	539.0
DRESDNER B	324.0	318.5
DT BARCOCK	169.5	171.0
FAZ INDEX	575.36	573.72
FELDMUEHLE	344.0	344.0
GOLDSCHEID	400.0	406.0
HANPENER	451.0	451.0
HOECHST AG	302.1	302.1
HOESCH	253.0	251.0
HORTEN	252.0	252.2
HUSSEL HLD	565.0	564.0
KALI SALZ	206.5	207.5
KARSTADT	519.0	525.0
KAUFHOFF	463.0	462.1
KLOECK H	156.0	161.5
KLOECK M	163.0	159.0
LIINDE	719.5	717.0
LUFTHANSA	175.0	172.0
MAN	289.0	279.5
MANNESSMAN	237.1	237.5
MERCEDES	520.0	527.0
METALLGES	410.0	412.5
NIXDORF PF	329.5	333.5
NORSK HYD	45.90	47.00
PHILIP KOM	565.0	557.0
PORSCHE	746.0	778.0
PREUSSAG	269.5	269.0
RWE	289.5	288.0
RHEINMETAL	423.0	420.5
RWE P	257.5	250.8
SALAMANDER	330.0	325.0
SCHERING	660.0	652.0
SEL	312.5	312.5
SIEMENS	535.0	530.7
THYSEN	248.3	247.6
VARTA	374.5	371.0
VEBA	287.5	286.0
VEN	169.4	169.3
VOLKSWAGEN	382.0	380.5

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLOSE
BANK EA	15.70	15.70
CATHAY	9.10	8.95
CAVENISH	310	310
CHUNG K	9.15	9.10
CHINA L-P	13.00	13.10
DAIRY FARM	7.00	6.90
EVERGOLD	2.20	2.25
GT EAGLE	0	0
H S INDEX	765.67	752.51
HAECO	20	19
HANG LUNG	4.87	4.95
HENDERSON	5.30	5.45
HK BANK	5.95	5.85
HK ELEC	7.40	7.40
HK GAS	18.50	18.50
HK LAND	9.25	9.25
HK TELECOM	5.00	5.00
HK-S HOTEL	5.35	5.20
HOPWELL	2.47	2.47
HS BANK	23.80	23.90
HUTCHINSON	10.00	9.90
HYSDEN DEV	1.40	1.36
JAR NATH	20.30	20.00
JSH	11.20	11.10
KIN BUS	7.40	7.50
LAI SUN	131	135
MANDARIN O	0	0
MANHAR	6.90	7.20
NEW WORLD	10.50	10.50
PAUL Y CON	1.04	1.04
SNK PROP	11.60	11.60
STELUX	2.30	2.35
SWIRE A	18.80	18.90
TAI CHEUNG	4.10	4.02
TV-B	1.07	1.08
WHSF	9.20	9.15
WINSOR	8.85	8.65
WORLD INTL	4.20	4.07

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLOSE
AKAI ELEC	2730	2750
AKAI ELEC	817	815
AKAI	1490	1460
ASAH GLS	2340	2310
ASAH OPT	946	954
BANK TOKYO	1680	1670
BRIDGESTON	1660	1620
CANON	1780	1810
CASIO COMP	1400	1420
CHUGAI PHM	1760	1760
CITIZEN W	1130	1120
D-ICHI KAN	3340	3370
DAI NIP IK	934	930
DAI NIP TP	2390	2390
DAI NIP TO	1190	1210
DAI NIP TO	998	1000
DATACOL	2120	2080
DAIWA SEC	2160	2190
DAIWA SEC	2180	2170
EBARA MFG	2050	2070
EISAI	2030	2030
FUJITSU	1530	1530
FUJITSU	3480	3460
FUJITSU	3880	4000
FUJITSU	1750	1780
FUJITSU CP	2040	1980
HITACHI	1660	1700
HONDA MOT	2030	2030
ISETAN	2370	2270
ITO YOKADO	3630	3650
JAP SYN RU	1270	1230
JAPAN AIR	16300	16100
JAPAN MET	1050	1060
KAJIMA	2220	2150
KANISAI EL	4840	4780
KAO SOAP	1710	1710
KAWASAKI H	1170	1150
KAWASAKI S	1050	1060
KIRIN BREW	1990	1970
KONATSU	1350	1310
KUBATO LTD	1250	1230
KYOCERA	5110	5220
MAKITA EL	1790	1820
MARUI	2780	2750
MATSUTA EI	2480	2500
MATSUTA EL	0	2660
MEIJI SEIK	1150	1120
MITSUB CP	1560	1550
MITSUB EL	1190	1190
MITSUB HST	2450	2440
MITSUB HYV	1150	1150
MITSUBI CO	1140	1100
MITSUKOSHI	2450	2430
MITSUMI EL	1060	1060
NICHICON	1650	1710
NIHON CHIT	1270	1240
NIKKO SEC	1850	1820
NIP ELEC	1860	1890
NIP KOKKAN	900	903
NIP OIL	1580	1560
NIP STEEL	903	897
NIS YUSEN	1070	1060
NIS MOTOR	1580	1570
NOMURA SEC	3350	3340
ORBA CO	1160	1140
OLYMPUS	1340	1330
PENTA OCN	1540	1520
PIONEER	3420	3440
RENKAW	1100	1080
RICOH	1280	1300
SANKYO	2510	2460
SANYO ELEC	968	957
SEIYU ST	2180	2180
SEKISUI PB	2000	2020
SHARP	1380	1380
SHISEIDO	1730	1720
SONY	7500	7550
SUMITOMO	1410	1390
TAISEI	1780	1670
TAISHO HRN	1330	1320
TAKEDA CH	2460	2480
TEIJIN	900	897
TKO NEW IX	531.16	519.39
TOKIO HRN	2050	2050
TOKYO ELEC	1240	1250
TOKYO GAS	1160	1150
TOKYO POWR	6070	6040
TORAY IND	1040	1030
TOSHIBA EL	1370	1370
TOTO	2450	2460
TOYO KOGY	1020	995
TOYOTA MOT	2720	2720
YAMAHA	1430	1420
YAMATCHI	1820	1820
YAMAMOTO	3540	3580
YAMAZAKI	1570	1550

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE AT RECORD TRADED HIGH

TOKYO, MAY 26, REUTER - A STRONGER YEN AND SOME INVESTMENT TRUST-FUND BUYING HELPED BOOST TOKYO STOCK PRICES TO A RECORD TRADED HIGH AT THE CLOSE AFTER AN OTHERWISE SLUGGISH DAY.

INVESTORS WERE MAINLY SILENT, AMATING NEWS OF A DISCOUNT RATE RISE EXPECTED EARLY NEXT WEEK, BROKERS SAID.

"THERE IS NOTHING FANTASTIC HAPPENING IN THE EQUITY MARKET. IT ALL LIES IN CURRENCY," SAID CHRIS TAYLOR, HEAD OF SALES AT BARRING SECURITIES (JAPAN) LTD. THE DOLLAR BRIEFLY DIPPED BELOW 140 YEN THIS AFTERNOON AFTER ITS RECENT SURGE.

THE KEY 225-SHARE NIKKEI INDEX ROSE 166.23 POINTS, OR 0.55 PERCENT, TO A RECORD TRADED HIGH AND RECORD CLOSE OF 34,191.62.

THE LAST RECORD CLOSE WAS MAY 8 AT 34,135.24 AND THE PREVIOUS RECORD TRADED HIGH WAS ON MAY 9 AT 34,174.86. THE INDEX ROSE 153.57 POINTS ON THURSDAY.

TURNOVER WAS A LOW 700 MILLION, UNCHANGED FROM THURSDAY. RISES LED FALLS 579 TO 333, WITH 166 UNCHANGED.

THE BROADEN FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, ROSE 11.66 POINTS TO 2,531.16 AFTER GAINING 9.77 ON THURSDAY.

"THE WEAKENING DOLLAR IS SUPPORTING THE TOKYO STOCK MARKET," SAID TORANOBU SUGAI, A SENIOR TRADER AT SHEARSON LEHMAN HUTTON ASIA INC. HE ADDED THAT TRADE WAS QUIET AHEAD OF THREE-DAY WEEKENDS IN BRITAIN AND THE U.S.

THE YEN FIRMED IN LATE TRADE ON CURRENCY MARKET TALK THAT A MAJOR JAPANESE NEWSPAPER HAD REPORTED THE BANK OF JAPAN HAD DECIDED TO RAISE THE DISCOUNT RATE BY 0.75 POINTS ON MAY 31.

THE BANK OF JAPAN WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THE MARKET TALK.

THE 0.75 FIGURE WOULD BE IN LINE WITH OTHER FORECASTS REPORTED EARLIER THIS WEEK, BUT WHICH DID NOT SPECIFY MAY 31 AS THE LIKELY DATE FOR THE INCREASE.

A SIMILAR RUMOR WAS ALSO IN THE STOCK MARKET, BROKERS SAID. "THE RUMOR HASN'T BEEN CONFIRMED SO PEOPLE JUST DECIDED TO WAIT," SAID A FUND MANAGER AT A MAJOR JAPANESE TRUST BANK.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MAY 26, REUTER - AGGRESSIVE TRADING DROVE HONG KONG'S HANG SENG INDEX SWINGING WITHIN AN 80-POINT RANGE TO CLOSE 13.16 POINTS UP AT 2,765.67.

"IT'S BEEN A TRADERS' MARKET OUT THERE," SAID AN DEALER AT A LOCAL SECURITIES HOUSE. BROKERS SAID ACTIVE BARGAIN-HUNTING AND PROFIT-TAKING SENT THE INDEX BOUNCING, BUT ACTIVITY WAS MUTED IN COMPARISON WITH THE MILD SWINGS SEEN THIS WEEK SPARKED BY CONFLICTING RUMOURS OUT OF PEKING.

THE INDEX HAS DROPPED 511.99 POINTS IN SIX TRADING DAYS.

"IT WILL STAY VOLATILE TILL CHINA RESOLVES ITS LEADERSHIP CRISIS," SAID ONE BROKER. "THIS IS NOT OVER YET."

AMMAN

As of 24.5.89	PNNG	CLSG	JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.46	2.46
			JOR PAPER CARDBOARD	3.55	3.55
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	2.04	2.14	JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.95	3.95
ALUMINUM IND.	2.06	2.11	JOR PIPES MANUFACT	2.18	2.28
ARAB BANK	150.0	149.5	JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.79
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.51	4.51	JOR RICE/MAFG	4.62	4.62
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.80	1.71	JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	1.01	1.01
ARAB INSURANCE	1.08	1.05	JOR SECURITY CORP.	1.12	1.12
ARAB INT. INV/TRAD.	0.67	0.66	JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.20	2.20
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.06	1.11	JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	2.44	2.44
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	1.14	1.16	JOR WORSTED MILL	4.60	4.60
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.30	2.37	JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.91	0.91
ARAB PAPER CORP/TRD	0.33	0.35	JOR. PETROLIUM REF	0.79	0.79
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	3.55	3.55	JOR. FRENCH INS.	2.58	2.58
ARAB PHARMA. CHEM	1.28	1.34	JOR. GULF CORP	2.58	2.58
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	JORDAN GULF REAL	0.35	0.35
BANK OF JORDAN	15.35	15.40	JORDAN DAIRY	1.05	1.11
BEIT AL-HAL/BEITNA	1.10	1.08	JORDAN GULF BANK	1.20	1.20
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.99	0.99
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	31.00	30.00	JORDAN INSURANCE	3.24	3.33
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25	JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	1.90	1.90
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.36	0.36	JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.45	1.45
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	2.44	2.47	LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.71	0.71
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.81	0.81	MACH/ENG/RENT/MAIN	0.80	0.80
FINANCE/CREDIT/COF	0.75	0.71	HAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.71
FINANCE OWNERS	0.75	0.75	HAWAIIAN HONEY	0.59	0.59
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63	MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.59	0.57
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.27	1.25	MIDDEL EAST TNS	2.00	2.00
GENERAL WINNING.	2.10	2.10	MINERALS RESEARCH	0.75	0.77
HIMMAM MINERALS	0.75	0.75	NAT.FIN.INVEST CO	1.89	1.81
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44	NAT/CABEL/UTRE/INF	2.70	2.70
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.73	0.75	NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.37	1.33
INDSTR. DEVLPT BNK	1.65	1.65	NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.97	0.97
INDSTR./COMM/AGV.	1.70	1.74	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.96	0.99
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75	NATIONAL STEEL	2.85	2.88
INTERNC./INV	0.13	0.13	ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.25
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.90	0.90	PETRA BANK	2.45	2.45
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	PETRA JOR.INS.	0.35	0.35
JORDAN/PETRI/CH	2.09	2.19	PIRA GADDELIA INS.	1.23	1.23
J. TOUR. COMPLEX	0.00	0.00	PREGAS CO	0.99	0.99
JERUSALEM INS.	26	1.29	RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	1.91 <th>1.91</th>	1.91
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	19.90	19.90	REAL ESTATE INV.	0.64	0.64
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	2.06	2.10	SHIPPING LINES	1.13	1.14
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05	SKINNIN WEAVING	1.26	1.21
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.46	1.49	THE HOUSING BANK	1.85	1.85
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22	UNITED INSURANCE	1.21	1.21
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.01	1.02	UNIVERSAL CHEN.IND	3.40	3.36
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.18	UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65	0.65
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.56	2.58	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	0.85	0.85
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.35	1.35

Trade talks fruitful, says US official

Huntsman in Riyadh

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia, May 26 (AP): A US official expressed satisfaction yesterday with the trade opportunities that still existed for US firms in Saudi Arabia.

Jon Huntsman Jr., deputy assistant secretary of commerce for capital goods and international construction, told newsmen in the Eastern Province capital of Dammam that he was discussing means of improving those ties.

He said the outcome of his contacts with Saudi officials was "fruitful."

Huntsman said Saudi Arabia was exporting goods worth \$6 billion to the United States, while the United States was exporting goods worth \$4 billion to Saudi Arabia.

"We would like to close this gap by exploring the Saudi market and promoting US exports," he said.

Huntsman said he tried to identify commercial opportunities for American businessmen as well as explore possibilities for joint venture and identify joint venture partners for US firms.

He expressed the view that there was still a sizeable market for American firms in construction, gas and oil field projects and engineering projects.

Huntsman held talks in Riyadh, and the Eastern Province oil center of Dhahran where he called on Ali Naimi, president of Saudi Aramco. The company is the major oil producer in the kingdom.

Huntsman said he hoped the July visit to the United States by Saudi monarch King Fahad would further enhance bilateral ties.

The deputy assistant secretary was accompanied by a US air-conditioning and refrigeration trade mission.

Saudi Arabia is the second largest market for the United States in air-conditioning and refrigeration after Canada. In 1988 alone, US air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment exports to Saudi Arabia totalled \$157 million.

The delegation was on a trade promotion mission that also covered Turkey and Egypt.

Energy use on the rise

SEOUL, May 26. (OPECNA): South Korea's energy consumption rose by 7.3 per cent in the first quarter of this year to reach 20.9 million tons of oil equivalent (TOE), with energy imports totalling \$1.58 billion, an increase of 20.8 per cent over 1988, according to the Energy and Resources Ministry yesterday.

Oil consumption increased by 16.9 per cent over the same period last year to 73.36 million barrels, the ministry said, adding that consumption of gasoline increased by 29.6 per cent and diesel fuel by 14.8 per cent due mainly to rising numbers of vehicles. Kerosene and propane consumption gained 32.5 per cent and 28.7 per cent respectively prompted by their growing use as household fuels.

Atomic energy co-operation

TOKYO, May 26. (AP): North Korea and Czechoslovakia have signed a protocol on co-operation in atomic energy for peaceful uses, the North's official news agency reported today.

The Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, gave no details of the agreement.

It said the agreement was signed in Pyongyang Monday by Stanislav Havel, chairman of the Czechoslovak Energy Nuclear Commission, and Choe Hak Gun, North Korea's Minister of Atomic Power Industry.

The two countries also signed a 1989-90 working plan, it added.

Canada boosts bank rate

OTTAWA, May 26. (UPI): The Canadian government yesterday boosted the trend-setting central bank rate by 10 basis points to 12.40 per cent amid a gradual weakening of the Canadian dollar on foreign currency markets.

The influential bank rate rose to 12.40 per cent from 12.30 per cent after falling 31 basis points from 12.61 in the past two weeks.

The increase was prompted by a drop in the Canadian dollar Wednesday on foreign exchange markets, where it closed at 82.76 US cents, down 0.61 cents from the previous day's close.

The dollar dipped Thursday to a low of 82.56 US cents, then recovered to 82.75 cents at midday before closing at 82.88 cents.

Money traders have been hard pressed to explain how much of the dollar's weakness has been due to concerns that Finance Minister Michael Wilson will resign after admitting he knew of two budget leaks.

In a tradition similar to that of the British Parliament, Canada's budget is kept secret until it is formally presented in Parliament, after stock markets have closed, to prevent anyone profiting from advance information.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said at the time he would inform Parliament immediately of any other leaks. But it was not until July 26 that the head of a major financial company with \$11 billion in assets also had a copy of the budget. Opposition politicians want Wilson to resign on grounds he deliberately misled Parliament.

Opposition parties, thirsting for the first resignation of the Conservative government's second term, accused the veteran finance minister of misleading the House of Commons over the extent of last month's budget leak.

Ex-premier testifies on share scandal

I am totally innocent, says Nakasone

TOKYO, May 26. (AP): Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, in long-awaited parliamentary testimony yesterday flatly denied any involvement in the Recruit bribery scandal but admitted receiving donations from the company at the centre of controversy.

"I am totally innocent," Nakasone said under oath in the lower house budget committee. "I regret such a scandal occurred when I was the head of the government. I deeply apologise for causing distrust in politics."

Ruling Liberal Democratic Party officials said the nearly three-hour grilling proved Nakasone's innocence in the scandal, which occurred during his 1982-87 administration.

But opposition leaders said he dodged crucial questions and demanded that he testify again in parliament's upper house.

Meanwhile, members of the ruling party's executive council prepared to meet today and were expected to focus on the continuing search for a successor to

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Takeshita announced last month he would resign because of widespread popular distrust of the party and government resulting from the Recruit scandal. The Liberal Democrats have been unable to find a successor because most senior party officials have received money or stock from the company.

Crowds gathered around television sets in stores and train stations to hear Nakasone's testimony, while government bureaucrats switched on sets in their offices.

Viewers could hear Nakasone's answers and the often sharply worded questions from opposition politicians, but saw only still photographs of the former prime minister taken before the start of the committee session.

Under a recent Japanese law, cameras are banned from parliament during the testimony of special witnesses.

Speaking calmly, Nakasone acknowledged publicly for the first time that

he has received a total of 45.7 million yen (\$322,000) in political donations from the Recruit Co. since 1982.

He said the contributions were reported to the government as stipulated by law, but suggested that some donations may have been divided among several support groups to remain below the minimum reporting amount.

Nakasone, 70, is the first politician called to testify under oath in parliament in the scandal. He had refused earlier opposition demands to testify, leading to a three-month opposition boycott of debate on the fiscal 1989 budget.

"I refused to testify earlier because I have never done anything wrong," Nakasone said yesterday.

After the session, Nakasone told reporters: "Facts are facts, they always prevail."

But opposition leaders said they doubted his testimony.

"I regret his testimony was filled with

lies," said Tsuruo Yamaguchi, secretary-general of the Japan Socialist Party, the largest opposition group. "It amounted to a defence of his seat in parliament. We will continue to demand to summon him again in the upper house and consider filing a complaint for perjury against him."

"What a waste of political energy the summons of Nakasone turned out to be," the nationally circulated newspaper Asahi Shimbun said in an editorial today.

"In no way did he come clean and clear himself," it said. "The Diet (parliament) must not halt the probe into the Recruit scandal with his appearance."

In the scandal, Recruit sold highly discounted, unlisted stock to about 160 influential people, including 17 politicians or their aides. Many recipients sold the stock after it was publicly listed and rose quickly in value, reaping large profits.

Eleven of the politicians were mem-

bers of Nakasone's cabinet, and opposition parties have charged that he was at the centre of the scandal.

Nakasone has acknowledged that three aides bought a total of 29,000 Recruit shares, the largest amount of any politician. He testified yesterday that the aides made a profit of about 64 million yen (\$450,000) and used the money themselves for entertaining political associates.

One questioner yesterday Seiji Masamori of the Japan Communist Party, yelled at Nakasone: "Do you think the nation will be satisfied with your explanation that the stock deal was intended to give profits to your secretaries?"

In his testimony, Nakasone also denied any involvement in the resale of two US-made Cray supercomputers to Recruit by Japan's semi-private telecommunications giant, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone.

Debtors may benefit if US acts to curb dollar rise

MEXICO CITY, May 26. (Reuters): While a higher dollar creates problems for Latin American debtors, this is tempered by optimism that the currency's strength will soon persuade US authorities to lower interest rates.

Significantly lower US rates would more than compensate the debtor nations for any burdens created by a higher dollar and bring immediate relief from their onerous debt repayments.

The dollar's rise this week to above two West German marks, up from 1.88 last month and 1.67 a year ago, could force the hand of the Federal Reserve, which has been reluctant to ease interest rates with inflation threatening.

A 2.9 per cent jump in the April US durable goods orders reported on Tuesday revived the worries of a too-strong economy. But with concern growing among Bush administration officials and US trading partners, the Fed may have no choice but to lower rates to tame the dollar.

The dollar surge is a concern for some countries like Mexico, where speculative demand for the US currency has put pressure on the peso in the past few days, foreign exchange dealers said. This could undermine Mexico's anti-inflation programme and force it to dip into precious reserves to support the local currency.

For some countries with a larger proportion of debts in currencies other than the dollar, in particular Brazil, the dollar rise will lower their outstanding debt, as non-dollar currencies lose value.

But with 75 per cent of the total Latin debt in dollars, most will not see the same benefit.

But more important to developing countries is whether the Federal Reserve acts to curb the dollar rise by lowering interest rates, whose increase has added around \$5 billion to Latin America's debt service bill in the past six months.

The impact of this added burden on growth in developing countries is beginning to be recognised in the United States, Latin America's main trading partner.

When Mexico sneezes, America feels the chill. When economic growth slowed here, US exports plunged by \$8 billion in two years," US Senator Edward Kennedy said in Mexico City this week.

Interest rates rose this year in line with a tight monetary policy aimed at dampening inflationary pressures resulting from continuing economic strength.

Venezuela seeks fresh funds

CARACAS, May 26. (OPECNA): Venezuelan Planning Minister Miguel Rodriguez and Venezuela's Central Bank president Pedro Tinoco are to tour six countries in an effort to obtain fresh funds to cover the country's financial needs. They will hold talks with senior banking and government officials in Japan, West Germany, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom and Canada.

In a pre-departure statement, Tinoco said the visits were part of the government's drive to reschedule Venezuela's foreign debt and explore the possibility of fresh funding from international banks.

The Venezuelan government has been applying a series of economic and financial reforms in an effort to overcome the current economic crisis caused by dwindling oil revenues and a large foreign debt, and it is hoped to improve the present situation by making the country a reliable credit partner with sound ratings.



Bystanders try to shake hands with Argentine President Raul Alfonsín as he comes out of the Buenos Aires cathedral after attending a Te Deum on Thursday. At rear is the President of the Chamber of Deputies Leopoldo Moreau. Alfonsín's catastrophic handling of the Argentine economy over the past 5 1/2 years creates a credibility gap as to whether an emergency programme to be announced Sunday can have any chance of success. (Reuters wirephoto)

Steps to deal with economic emergency

Alfonsín names new cabinet

BUENOS AIRES, May 26. (UPI): President Raul Alfonsín named his new cabinet yesterday two days after the old cabinet resigned to clear way for massive changes in the government's strategy for dealing with a crushing economic crisis.

Among the new appointees was Susana Ruiz Cerrutti, who was named foreign minister — the first Argentine woman to hold the position. Cerrutti, a Deputy Foreign Minister, will replace her former boss, Dante Caputo, a government spokesman said.

Jesus Rodriguez, 33, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies' Budget Committee, was named Minister of Economy, replacing Juan Carlos Pugliese, 74, who

was appointed Interior Minister.

The spokesman said Secretary of Energy Roberto Echarte was named Minister of Public Works, and Jose Garbriel Dumon, a legislator and member of the radical Civic Union Party, was appointed minister of education.

The old cabinet resigned Tuesday night after the president delivered a televised speech saying he would change his style of government and "get tough" to deal with galloping inflation and panic-buying of US dollars in the exchange markets.

Alfonsín said his new "crisis government" would take difficult steps to deal with the economic emergency.

The president's six-year term

ends on Dec 10, when President-elect Carlos Menem of the opposition Peronist Party is scheduled to take office.

Argentina has suffered a 90 per cent devaluation of its currency, the austral, since February. Inflation may hit 70 per cent this month. A severe budget deficit has forced double-digit rate hikes for public services and delays in wage increases.

Recently the crisis in Argentina has had even more of an impact on ordinary citizens. Meat prices jumped 70 per cent this week. Shoppers start at packages of coffee or cartons of milk, shake their heads and walk away without making a purchase.

Rash of supermarket looting breaks out

BUENOS AIRES, May 26. (Reuters): A dozen supermarkets have been looted in Argentine cities by groups of people in the past two days, local media reported yesterday in a new reflection of the country's economic plight.

About 25 people were detained and at least three were wounded in clashes between policemen and looters, according to news reports on the first violent outbreaks linked to supermarket robberies.

"This is the externalisation of the country's crisis, of hyper-inflation hitting consumers. The discontent had to find a way out and sadly, some businessmen are paying for it," Supermarket Association president Ovidio Bolo said.

But a ruling Radical Party official in Cordoba said the actions were not spontaneous.

"There's a well-orchestrated agitation operation

... we must keep our senses in these difficult times and not let us be influenced by those interested in agitation," Hector Luna said, without elaborating.

Politicians and labour leaders had warned about social disruption in the weeks leading to May 14 elections as skyrocketing prices shattered government imposed price controls and retailers began to complain about difficulties in stocking their stores with goods.

Private economists say Argentina has fallen victim to hyper-inflation as they forecast that the cost of living increase could shoot over 100 per cent during June alone. Prices of foodstuffs, medical supplies and other basic household items have nearly doubled this week, Buenos Aires store owners said.



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| — Word Processing (English - Arabic) | — Lotus 123 |
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EVENTS

IAC play contest winners announced

Bengalis walk away with major awards

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff
THE Bengali Cultural Society walked away with four major awards in the IAC One-Act Play competition held earlier this month.

The winners were announced at a gala evening on Thursday night at the IAC premises in Fintunes.

The Bengali Cultural Society's production of 'Sadga', based on a novel by Premchand about the tragic consequences of the caste system, won the Best Play Award. Sadga's director Swapna Dasgupta won the Best Director Award. Chandrabali Ghosh won the Best Actress Award for her role as Jhuria in the Bengali play; and the group also received the Best Stage Setting Award.

No one was surprised at the success of the Bengalis, who have shown a penchant for aesthetics in their productions, staged annually, over the years.

The Best Actor Award was won by N.V. Madhavan (Madhu), who played Ramu in the Malayalam play Thazhavarayude Thengal. Twelve groups had presented dramas in seven Indian languages. The IAC also selected the best performer from each group. The winners are: Mary Sebastian (Madhu and Friends); Vakkom Sharma (Kala); IAC Badminton Group

(Shivakumar); B.R.K. Prasad (Kuwait, Kannada Koota); Dharamarajan (Salkala); Mohan T. George (Kuwait Dramatic Society); Raghuraman (Bharathi Kalai Mandram); Swapna Dasgupta (Bengali Cultural Society); Jitendra Dasandi (Gujerati group); and (Sharma Family) Komal Shillikeri (Maharashtra Mandal) and Raman Sethi (Indian School).

It was a moment of glory for the winners, as they received their prizes during a musical evening, designed on the lines of the Filmfare Awards ceremony. It was an ambitious venture and could have gone wrong, but it didn't, primarily due to the forethought gone into planning the event.

The winners were judged on total points scored by each group. The Best Play received 558 points out of a total of 700; the best actor scored 624 points; the best actress received 610 points and the best director scored 592 points.

The Panel of Judges comprised B.S.N. Rao; M.P. Delehera, Mrs. Nalini Kavelekar, E.S.V. Krishnan, Shreyes Munshi; Hema Mukundan and S.S.N. Ganju. The Judges Committee was headed by Indian First Secretary Abdul Khalique and included P.V. Chacko, K.A. Abraham.

The contest, organised by a 19 member IAC committee

chaired by P.P. Nair, was marred only by minor hiccups like an irate sound system.

IAC president M.M. Mathews rightly pointed out that its success was due to "the overwhelming response" the IAC received from the participants.

The idea of this year's play contest, sponsored by Easa Hossain Al Yusufi (National), was to encourage the Indian groups to take an active part in cultural activities.

Prizes were distributed by Mrs. Chhaya Jha, M.M. Mathews, Mr. Yusufi and outgoing Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha. IAC has announced that they would make this an annual event; the next competition will be held in April, 1990.

On Thursday night, the IAC hosted a dinner-reception to say farewell to outgoing Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha, who will soon take up his new assignment in Yugoslavia. Jha, who came to Kuwait in August 1984, said in his farewell speech that he has "always discouraged communalism" but encouraged regional groups to enable the 100,000 Indians to portray the diversity of Indian culture in Kuwait.

A one-and-a-half hour musical, directed by Radhakrishnan, was also presented. Singers included Girija, Mathews, Sunny and John.



Swapna Dasgupta receives the best acting performance award for her role in the Bengali play, Sadga, from Mrs. Jha. Dasgupta also won the Best Director Award.



Chandrabali Ghosh displays her trophy after winning the Best Actress Award.



Bengali Cultural Society's president Kalyan Majumdar receives the Best Play award from Indian envoy, N.N. Jha.

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY	6.00 Holy Quran	6.10 Dennis the Menace: cartoon serial	6.30 Scientific Eye: "What is Life." A look at evolution of life on earth.	7.00 In the Wild: "A Key to Survival". A look at how man and beast survive in the harsh climate of the Australian outback.	7.30 Sea Hunt: "Toxic Waste". The sea has been turned into a dumping ground; raising fears of pollution. Dr Mike investigates. Part 2.	8.00 News in English	8.40 Murder, She Wrote: "Mr Henry's Vacation." Two men are murdered in a motel and Jessica is asked to help solve the crime. Starring: Angela Lansbury.	9.30 Nature Watch: "Shrike". A look at the shrike, an Asian bird, and its natural habitat and migratory habits.	10.00 You Can't Take It With You: "Educating Essie". Jealousy is the cause of many a trouble and Morgan tries to help his grand-daughter overcome it.	10.30 Best-Seller: Lonesome Dove. Part 4. In an episode entitled "Return", you'll see how a group of Indians attack Guss and Beth.	12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
MONDAY	6.00 Holy Quran	6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon series	6.30 Wild America: A look at "grasshopper mice" that are found in the wild in the US and Canada.	7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world and regional affairs.	7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "A Date with End." Charles tries to help a young girl who believes she is not beautiful.	8.00 News in English	8.40 Paradise: "The Ghost Dance". An Indian chief, John Tyler, is under pressure after a group of white settlers decide they want to get rid of him.	9.30 227: "Snow Bound." A cold spell bothers the residents, who take shelter in the heated apartment of Mary and Lester. Comedy.	10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "South by		

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV1

MORNING

9.00 Holy Quran
 9.15 Cartoons
 10.00 Yaseen Wa Bahiya: Arabic serial (Part 13)
 10.45 News summary & varieties
 11.00 Al Aswar: Local serial (last part)
 12.15 Al Sufla Al Khalijiya: Programme presented by Afnan Al Zayani

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
 4.45 Sherlock Holmes: Cartoon serial
 5.15 Al Fanan Al Sagheer: Local programme
 6.00 Nadam: Historical serial
 7.30 Noor Al Islam: Local religious programme, prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qader, directed by Mohamed Thiyab
 8.00 Al Amn Wa El Muwatan: Local programme
 9.50 Layali Al Hilmiya:

Daily Arabic serial

(Part 15)

10.45 Al Ghofra 619: Late night Arabic feature, starring Hassan Abdain, Shaukar, May, Hamdi Al Wazzer

KTV2

6.00 Holy Quran
 6.10 Mickey and Donald: cartoon series
 6.30 Not Another Science Show: "Something Wonderful in the Foot."
 7.00 Out of the World: "Should Old Acquaintances Forget." Evie displays her supernatural powers.
 7.30 Animals of Africa: "The Quest for Food." A look at how animals hunt for food.
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 Our House: "Growing Up, Growing Old." The family help an elderly neighbour

after her accident.

9.40 Reaching for the Skies: "The Quest for Speed." Tonight's episode examines speed and how it developed from 20 miles an hour to the present supersonic aircraft.
 10.30 Saturday Night Movie: Scruples. Starring: Priscilla Barnes, Dirk Benedict, James Darren, Jessica Walter. A glib extension of the popular mini-series that starred Lindsay Wagner, it concerns a woman who inherits a big business and big problems to go with it. Directed by Robert Day.
 12.30 News Summary/ Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



N.V. Madhavan receives the Best Actor award from Ali Yusufi.

NIGHT CHEMIST

KUWAIT
Al Hajri Pharmacy
Al Hilal St, Opposite of Ministry of Communications
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St
Fahsheel and Almadadi
Al Itihad Pharmacy

Fahsheel, Makkah St,
Property of Faisal Al Ghanem

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Khayam Pharmacy
Nagra, Beirut St

Salmiya and Ramalithiya
Al Quds Pharmacy
Amman St, Abdul Karim Al Mizal Bldg

Farwaniya
Al Mnawer Pharmacy
Souq Janoubi St,
Abbas Mnawer bldg

Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
Area Four, Plot #48,
near Badr Al Somait Company

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bangladesh Art Show
UPTO May 27, Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

MUSIC

Musical evening
JUNE 9, at 6 pm: The Indian Musical group 'Octave' will present a grand musical evening at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium. Hindi, Bengali, Tamil and Malayalam songs will be staged by highly talented singers and musicians.

PLAYS

Kuwait Players
May 28 - June 1 (7.30 pm): Kuwait Players will present the

last production of the season, a comedy entitled When Did You Last See Your Trousers, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets - KD3. For reservations call 5637088; 5629875.

Konkani Drama
JUNE 15/16 (4.00 pm): Nashibacho Divo Paloulo, the MAR production's Konkani drama, directed by Prem Kumar to be staged at the Indian Arts Circle. For entry passes contact Raja Stores, tel: 2412970.

SOCIAL

Charity Dinner
MAY 29: A fund-raising dinner for refugees in Lebanon will be held for the British charity, MAP, at the Regency Palace Hotel. It has been organised by the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society. For reservations contact the hotel.

Bangladeshi get-together
BANGLADESHI Engineers and architects in Kuwait will hold a get-together at the Hotel Plaza Ballroom on June 15 from 7.30 pm onwards. For details contact 4317145, 4718157 or 3713923.

Seminar
MAY 30: A seminar on the refugee problems will be held by Dr Pauline Cutting and Dr Sweeney, who will be in Kuwait to raise funds for refugees in Lebanon, at the Kuwait Medical Society.

Sultan Gallery
UPTO May 31: Exhibition of painting of the papyrus by Egyptian artist Adam Henein. Opening hours 10 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the Thumayn Alghanim Building, Soor Street.

Kuwait-Welsh Society
MAY 31: The annual general meeting of the society will be held on Wednesday at 8 pm.

For details call 391-2384; 372-9132; 371-3467; 562-5316.

Get-together
JUNE 16: The Go-Go Club will be having a get-together at the Ramada Al Salem Hotel from 11 am onwards with Stepping Stones and Symphony in attendance. For details contact Raju 2412970 and Tony 2631826 after 3.30 pm.

HOTELS

Al the Kuwait International
Garden pool: Kubli Khan Mongolian barbecue every Friday afternoon. Mix and watch your lunch while it is prepared according to your palate. Ext 8006.

La Patisserie: Serves continental breakfast and afternoon tea. Sacher tart is the cake of the week. Pianist in the evenings. Ext 8014.

Falaka: Rooftop restaurant offers international cuisine. Arab nights on Thursday. Live entertainment during dinner. Open for lunch and dinner. Closed on Fridays Ext 8012.

Al Ramada Al Salem
El Bender: offers special iftar and snubour buffet; Al Gandoul Grill Garden, open in the evenings offers a selection of grills in the ambience of a waterfall.

Al Mawardi Garden: After iftar, relax in the open-air with screen.

At the Holiday Inn: SWIMMING lessons have commenced which is available for non-members.

Mondays (6 to 7 pm): separate ladies and men's fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill.

Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm): ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Beetle Juice
Al Salmiya
Booked for Arabic play
Al Hasna Wa Wahoush
Al Hamra
Arabic Film
Drive-In
Arabic Film
Al Firdous
Zulum Ko Jala Doonga
Starring: Naseruddin Shah, Vasant Sena, Suparna Anand
Fahsheel Open Air
Mela
Fahsheel
Karate Girls
Jahra
Moonstruck

Granada
Bound for Glory
Salaikhkhat
Arabic film
Al Jleeb
Kudumba Purnam
Ahmadi Drive-In
Overboard

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.18 am
Zuhr	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.40
Isha	8.10

Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome. Tennis coaching available for non-members. Additional facilities available under the supervision of selective professionals: loss of weight, body building, massage (steam-oil-and cream) for ladies and men. Contact the recreation department on 4742000 ext. 6788 or 6700.

At the Meridian

SPECIAL weekly promotion at La Brasserie restaurant. Asian corner every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. A wide variety of Asian dishes, in addition to the regular buffet, will be featured. Tempura, fried noodles, etc. are prepared in front of the guests and served on the spot.

Mexican night every Sunday. Discover the delight of Mexican cuisine awaiting you in our Little Mexico.

Greek Taverna every Tuesday. Experience authentic Greek ambience and food with bouzouki music and a wide variety of mezzah.

Family day every Friday. Enjoy a Friday with your family. La Brasserie offers a wide array of Oriental favourites along with live music entertainment plus magician to thrill the little ones and many other games for the children.

At the SAS
BISTRETTO: SAS hotel's Italian restaurant exquisitely designed to create a cool and elegant atmosphere. Perfect setting for your breakfast, lunch or dinner. Enjoy Friday, brunch with the whole family.

Peacock Room: Authentic Chinese dishes served in perfect Oriental setting. Come and have lunch and dinner with us and experience the feel of the Orient.

come aboard and join us. We offer a wide range of grilled items and of course our extensive mezzah buffet. Open for lunch on Thursdays and Fridays only, and dinner daily. Clock: The only drive-in restaurant in town. If you are always on the go, please drop by and we will serve you with varied fastfood items along with our very own specialities on the dot.

SPORTS

Swimming and Keep Fit
SWIMMING lessons have commenced at the Holiday Inn which is available for non-members. Monday (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill.

Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm): ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo.

Saturdays and Tuesdays Yoga (7 to 8 pm)
Bowling alley available for company tournaments.

Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome.

Tennis coaching available for non-members and additional facilities available under the supervision of selective professionals: loss of weight, body building, massage (steam - oil - and cream) for ladies and men.

Please contact the recreation department tel. 4742000 ext 6788 or 6700.

Hindi examinations

HINDI 'Pravesh examination' of the central Hindi directorate, New Delhi, will be conducted at the embassy of India premises on May 28, at 7.30 am. Candidates who registered for the above examination should report to the embassy on the said date.

Over 40 and still rocking

Can the WHO be a smash-hit all over again?

By Alex Molloy

THEY were one of the legends that made the sixties great — a wild, guitar-smashing group that sang about wanting to die before they grew old. Yet like the rest of us, they mellowed with age.

Now The Who are reforming for a 25th anniversary tour and it promises to be just as exciting as any of their previous performances.

Critics are already speculating on whether the group will be able to wow today's audience. Will the legendary arguments and on-stage tantrums compromise their comeback?

Now that most have passed the 40 mark, The Who have stopped smashing up hotel rooms and seem content living as family men. But, according to friends, they have lost none of their magic.

An insider revealed: "They are still the best around — absolutely mesmerizing. They just play together so well."

The band plans to tour America, despite the fact that some of them had vowed never to play concerts again.

In the past, Pete Townshend has said: "Cynics reckon we'll get together again for the odd rock concert but frankly I doubt it. I want to get as far away from rock 'n' roll as possible. I never want to see a big rock stadium again."

"I have been denigrating about the selfishness of much of the industry and I still hate the star system which it builds up. I think so many stars are attributed with intelligence they don't have, beauty they don't possess and loyalty and love they are incapable of reciprocating."

But recently 44-year-old Townshend's attitude seems to have changed. He admits: "I am far happier than I used to be. I've grown up. I've learned how to handle showbiz."

The tour comes after months of his being unable to commit to a comeback. Last year Roger Daltrey, now 45, said: "As you get older, you find more and more areas where you have to give and take. Compromise



The WHO in their heyday

doesn't work in rock 'n' roll. It weakens it.

"I've never felt younger. As for that male menopause thing that's supposed to happen at 40, I think I've missed it."

Problem
The only problem I had then was that The Who stopped working. It's not true that we've been pushing Pete to get back together."

"It's simply that John Entwistle, Kenny Jones and I never wanted to stop. So all the decisions about the reunion have to come from Pete. We don't need persuading. "It won't be like the last time.

We ended up being reduced to session musicians playing on a Pete Townshend solo record. "It wasn't right, it didn't work and it won't happen again. If we do get back together, it will be to make a real record."

Daltrey doesn't deny that money is important to him. He said: "All through the great days of The Who, I was always terrified of being poor again. "I'd been there, and OK, money can't make you happy. But if it comes to a choice between rich and poor, give me rich any time. Money gives me the freedom to get on with life

They said it would never happen, yet the legendary group are set for a reunion tour. Older and wiser now, on-stage they will be as unpredictable as ever.

and worry."

A far cry from the days when Daltrey was a notorious hell-raiser. Peter Dudge, The Who's former tour manager, remembered the bands hey-day.

"Roger could be violent," he said. "I once saw him having a huge row with Pete over plans for an American tour. Pete

called Roger 'Dippity-Do' a nickname he loathed. He was given it because of the gel he used to curl his hair with.

"Roger smashed Pete hard on the nose and knocked him out cold. But basically Roger is a simple kind of man. Sex and money were all he talked about and he was passionately anti-drugs."

Overdose

Rudge also recalled working with the late Keith Moon. The Who's original drummer who died of a drug overdose in 1978.

He said: "Keith Moon was one of the funniest people I met in rock. One mad night in Mon-

real, Keith decided he didn't like the way his hotel room was decorated. "He ordered a roadie to buy 25 bottles of tomato ketchup, then spent half-an-hour painting the walls vivid red."

"I was woken up by a squad of Mounties and went with them to Keith's room. He was sitting on the bed wearing a monocle, smoking jacket and velvet slippers, quietly reading the Wall Street Journal while Douglas, his assistant, served vodka and caviar."

"Keith made the Mounties wait half-an-hour while he changed into his silk pyjamas and a different smoking jacket. Then off he went to the police station."

"Another trick was to walk into a motorway service station and order Douglas to lay a table with a crisp linen tablecloth and a silver candelabra."

"Minutes later he'd go berserk and throw egg and chips over some massive truck driver. When the trucker turned nasty, Keith would say 'I'm terribly sorry, old chap. Please take this £200 as a small token of my remorse'."

After Moon's tragic drug death, Pete Townshend went on to have a nervous breakdown and took two years to recover.

"Keith had lived 100 years by the time he went out at 30," said Roger Daltrey.

"I sometimes wonder whether Pete wasn't just jealous that Moony had such a wonderful rock 'n' roll ending to his life."

"When we started in the sixties, we were just in it for five minutes, never mind five years. We just had no idea how long it would go on. It was wonderful, all of it. Every bloody second."

"It's like an exaggeration of life. The highs were higher, the lows were lower. You can't ever explain properly to someone who has never done it."

"When it's going well, it's not just the band — it's the audience. The band becomes totally at one with the audience. If you are playing 10,000 people, that's 10,000 people totally united on one wavelength."

Jody Watley makes it two weeks in a row

NEW YORK, (AP) Jody Watley kept her *Real Love* at its peak — at the top of the single pop record charts in the United States for the second week in a row.

Forever Your Girl by Paula Abdul stayed on for the second straight week in second place on the Cash Box magazine chart. Michael Damian's *Rock On* jumped from fifth to third position.

Bette Midler vaulted onto the top 10 this week with *Wind Beneath My Wings*, up from 13th to 8th.

Last week's number three hit, Bon Jovi's *I'll Be There For You*, slipped to fifth.

As for the country-western singles, Randy Crowell's *After All This Time* took over the number one spot on the Cash Box magazine chart. *If I Had You* by Alabama was second, and *I Got You* by Dwight Yoakam was third.

Top Ten US

The top 10 singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) *Real Love* — Jody Watley (MCA).
2. (2) *Forever Your Girl* — Paula Abdul (Virgin).
3. (5) *Rock On* — Michael Damian (Cypress).
4. (6) *Soldier of Love* — Donny Osmond (Capitol).
5. (3) *I'll Be There For You* — Bon Jovi (Mercury/Polygram).
6. (10) *Patience* — Guns n' Roses (Geffen).
7. (1) *After All* — Cher and Peter Cetera (Geffen).
8. (13) *Wind Beneath My Wings* — Bette Midler (Atlantic).
9. (9) *Electric Youth* — Debbie Gibson (Atlantic).
10. (4) *Like A Prayer* — Madonna (Sire).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (3) *After All This Time* — Randy Crowell (Columbia).
2. (1) *If I Had You* — Alabama (RCA).
3. (4) *I Got You* — Dwight Yoakam (Warner Brothers).
4. (7) *Where Did I Go Wrong* — Steve Wariner (MCA).
5. (2) *Is It Still Over?* — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers).
6. (9) *The Gospel According to Luke* — Skip Ewing (MCA).
7. (10) *She Don't Love Nobody* — The Desert Rose Band (MCA-Curb).
8. (11) *I Don't Want To Spoil The Party* — Rosanne Cash (Columbia).
9. (5) *Young Love* — The Judds (Curb-RCA).
10. (6) *Don't Toss Us Away* — Patty Loveless (MCA).

And in London, *Ferry 'Cross The Mersey*, the 1960s hit re-released to raise money for victims of Britain's worst sports disaster, topped the British pop singles chart for the second week running.

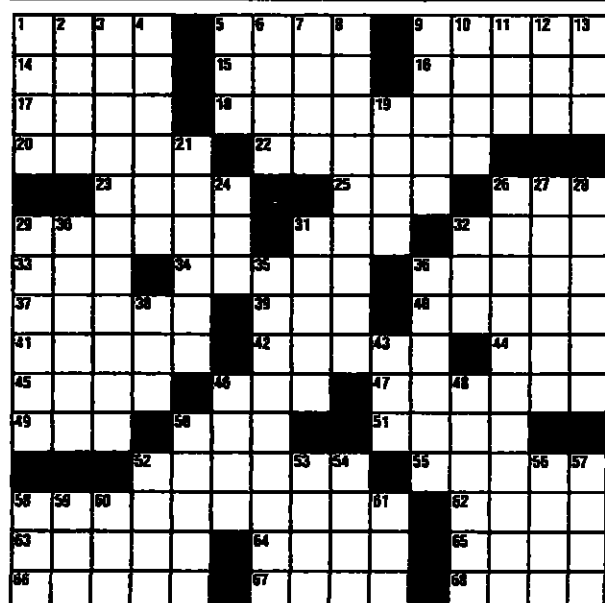
Gerry Marsden, who first recorded the song with the Pacemakers in 1964, joined with Paul McCartney and other singers from Liverpool on the *River Mersey* to release it for the fund set up after 95 Liverpool fans died last month at the Hillsborough stadium.

Natalie Cole's comeback hit *Miss You Like Crazy* moved into second place, followed by *Hand On Your Heart* by Kylie Minogue, *Requiem* by the London Boys and *Bring Me Edelweiss* by Edelweiss.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd, the national music retail chain, with last week's placings in parentheses:

1. (1) *Ferry 'Cross The Mersey* — Various Artists (FWL).
2. (4) *Miss You Like Crazy* — Natalie Cole (EMI USA).
3. (2) *Hand On Your Heart* — Kylie Minogue (PWL).
4. (3) *Requiem* — London Boys (Teldec-WEA).
5. (6) *Bring Me Edelweiss* — Edelweiss (WEA).
6. (16) *Every Little Step* — Bobby Brown (MCA).
7. (7) *I'm Every Woman* (Remix) — Chaka Khan (Warner Bros).
8. (25) *Manchild* — Neneh Cherry (Circa).
9. (5) *I Want It All* — Queen (Parlophone).
10. (14) *Helyom Halib* — Capella (Music Man).

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Unit
 - Fighter plane: abbr.
 - Siskel's partner
 - Wide-mouthed pitcher
 - Lover of Aeneas
 - Sedans for execs.
 - Singer Perry
 - Australian musical film: 1982
 - Solo
 - Camera stand
 - Scotia
 - Prince Valiant's son
 - Ms. amenders
 - Bungled, with "up"
 - port in a storm
 - Escape
 - Pop or op
 - Furious
 - Weather, to Wordsworth
 - City in Quebec
 - "Able was I — I saw Elba"
 - Shaver
 - Land of Leonardo
 - Devo's nest
 - Devoured
 - Twits, to Brits
 - Start to bloom
 - Emulated Bonnie and Clyde
 - King's successor, in Vegas
 - Drop
 - Writer Wiesel
 - Swallow
 - Kelauer of Tennessee
 - Salesman's due
- DOWN**
- Unfreeze
 - Snooped
 - The Stooges, for example
 - avis
 - Wane
 - Lampreys
 - the Lonely
 - Orbison song
 - Ten: Comb. form
 - Acronym for some off-base
 - 3
 - Admonish
 - One of the Titans
 - Commercial
 - Katrina
 - Hebrew month
 - Herb of the carrot family
 - Singer John
 - Larry of the Catlitz
 - Australian bird
 - Mythological creature
 - Relative of "lut"
 - Nimble
 - "Bye-Bye Love"
 - brothers
 - Nabokov novel
 - Age from 1550 to 1603
 - Lower in rank
 - Become enraged
 - "La Strada" star Giulietta
 - Sensuous
 - Ventilated

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

7 + 2 = 9

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 9 8 5 3
 ♥ A K 7 2
 ♦ 7 4 3
 ♣ 5 2

EAST
 ♠ 7 4
 ♥ Q J 10 9 4
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ 7 6 4 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 10
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ A J 9 2
 ♣ A K Q J

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
 3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠
 It is all very well to contract for nine tricks at no trump. But that presupposes your ability to collect the required number of tricks. South didn't quite fulfill that condition on this hand from a rubber bridge game.

South's hand is a nightmare—a balanced powerhouse with an un-stopped major suit. His way of handling the matter was as good as any. His method of playing the hand, however, left something to be desired.

West led the top of his club sequence, and the play did not take long. Declarer won in hand, crossed to the king of hearts and finessed the ten of spades, losing to the jack. He won the club return, re-entered dummy with the ace of hearts and tried another 'spade finesse. When

that, too, lost, declarer could come to no more than eight tricks.

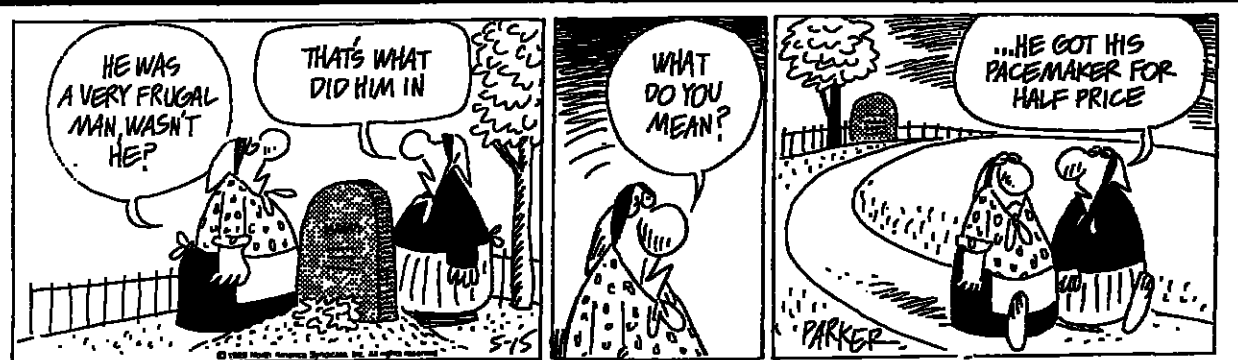
It was most unlucky to find both missing spade honors wrong—East was a 3-to-1 favorite to hold either the king or the jack. And double-dummy declarer can make the hand by stripping West of exit cards and then throwing him in with a diamond to force a lead up to the ace-queen of spades. However, there is a sure-trick line available against any distribution.

Look at the spade spots. Declarer is missing only two key spades. He can set up a second trick in spades by force, regardless of the location of the defenders' honor cards in the suit. After winning the first trick, declarer should simply bang out the ace and queen of spades, forcing out the king. When he next gains the lead, he continues with the ten of spades to set up the nine while there is still a heart entry on the table.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

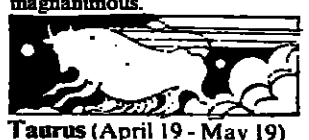
By Johnny Hart



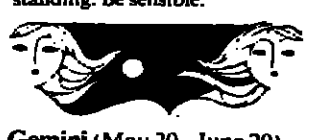
YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)
 You will be in a better frame of mind and this will help you to deal with the day's problems. You should do your best to avoid creating confusion. Make sure your partner does not feel neglected. Be magnanimous.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
 You will have a lot to do and must make sure you do not waste time. A good opportunity may not be perceived until too late. You should show a little more understanding. Be sensible.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
 You will have something to be pleased about. You should think a little longer and harder before taking action. It does not cost you anything to be a little more understanding. Be sensible.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
 You will be able to take advantage of a good opportunity. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 24. Others will show more sympathy towards you but you should not ask too much from them.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
 You will be able to make a good progress only you should not try to rush anything. A small problem cannot be solved overnight, but it will yield to patience and common-sense. You should not abandon your principles. Be polite.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
 At first you will not feel like doing very much, but later you will regain your usual verve. You should avoid doing anything you are not quite sure about. See that you do not act in a manner bound to be bad for your health. Be sincere.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)
 You must ensure you are not late for an appointment. You should do things gradually: do not try to use force or act hurriedly. Do have a good laugh at yourself. Be benevolent.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
 You must refrain from making snap decisions. You will feel more at peace with yourself. Avoid trying to do too many things all at once. Be reliable.



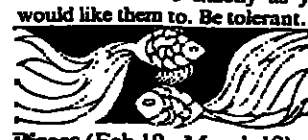
Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
 You will be able to get a lot more done. However you must restrain a tendency to take on more than you have time or resources for. You should try harder to get behind the meaning of what people are saying to you. Be objective.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
 You should try not to be in such a hurry, take things more as they come. You would do well to pay more attention to your health. Also pay due regard to your personal safety. Be moderate.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
 The better influence of Venus and Jupiter will help you to avoid getting into an emotional situation. You should keep your wits very much about you. Do not expect others to behave exactly as you would like them to. Be tolerant.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
 You will tend not to be quite so sure of yourself. However, the situation is good and something about which you are anxious will not happen. Do avoid gambling or taking needless risks. Be alert.



Can a patient cure cancer through alternative medium.

Extending the boundaries of conventional medicine

A mind and body cure for cancer?

By Ann Kent

WHEN Bristol Cancer Help Centre in the UK first opened its doors in 1980, the medical profession was icy in its disapproval. Times have not changed. Many cancer specialists still freeze at the word Bristol.

However, they now face a challenge from within their own ranks. Professor Karol Sikora, who runs one of Britain's most advanced cancer centres, has invited medical staff from Bristol to treat his patients.

The Bristol medical team is currently making regular visits to his unit at Hammersmith Hospital, working out how therapies such as healing and meditation can be combined with conventional cancer treatment.

It is a brave move, for where the Bristol centre sees a philosophy which helps patients regain control over their lives, many doctors see only cranky diets, falsely raised hopes and ultimate disappointment. Although Sikora is not a convert to the Bristol philosophy, he believes it may help some of his patients.

He argues that if patients' emotional well-being is improved, then they are more able to withstand his treatments, which he believes will cure them or prolong their lives.

Sikora, who describes his unit as "the factory", is convinced that his treatments are the best the medical world can offer.

But he also accepts that the surroundings and ambience undermine the therapeutic procedures.

In a few years, the factory will be replaced by a brand new cancer centre — fund raising permitting — which will concentrate on treating the whole patient, rather than just the tumour. Sikora has enlisted the help of the Bristol staff because he wants to be clear about what facilities will be needed in the new centre to provide the holistic approach.

Like most cancer specialists, Sikora has horror stories about alternative medicine practitioners who concentrate so much on the patient's mental well-being that they fail to treat the disease.

However, the Cancer Help Centre has never advised visitors to abandon conventional therapy — although some choose to. Sikora visited the centre after discovering that its ideas seemed to help some of his patients withstand the more aggressive anti-cancer therapies. This is important because, as he explains, the best chance of curing many cancers comes first time round.

At Bristol, he found "a little bit of extremism" but also therapies which could benefit large numbers of patients. The Bristol philosophy suggests that stressful life events can damage the immune system, making us



Unusual alliance: Penny Brohn of the Bristol Cancer Help Centre and top UK cancer specialist Karol Sikora

The Bristol Cancer Help Centre in the UK, uses healing and meditation to fight cancer. Some of their unorthodox methods are now being integrated into conventional cancer treatment but scepticism still remains. Do they really work?

more vulnerable to disease.

By dealing with stresses and suppressed emotions such as anger and grief the body's natural defences can boost the individual so they are better equipped to fight the cancer.

"Stress is only a very small part of the cancer story. I think it is the orthodox treatments which help our patients, but the Bristol philosophy may improve their quality of life," Sikora says.

"Once the system is under way, all our patients will be offered counselling. Because they will often return to us for regular courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, they will have a chance to try the other Bristol treatments such as acupuncture, relaxation, meditation and even faith healing."

However, there is one striking point. Sikora is strongly opposed to the strict cleansing diet which is part of the Bristol philosophy. He is concerned that it can lead to further weight loss in patients who are already weakened.

This unlikely collaboration between conventional and complementary medicine has been spearheaded by Penny Brohn, co-founder of the Bristol Centre and a one-woman

pressure group determined to convert the medical establishment.

Brohn, aged 45, admits that it was her own rejection of conventional therapy which helped fuel the anger of the medical profession. "It has always been difficult for others to distinguish between my personal decision and the policy of the centre, which is to offer supportive therapy."

"I have always wanted our methods to be available on the wards. I wanted to give the patients the power you get from knowing from day one. I wanted to make sure they didn't go through that terrible aloneness and sense of helplessness which I faced in 1980."

"Bristol allows patients to take part in their treatment. You can see chemotherapy in one of two ways — an awful poison to make you feel ill or a champagne cocktail of magic bullets to make you feel better."

Like Sikora, Brohn does not expect all Hammersmith's cancer patients to take to alternative therapies. "Forcing them to do so would have been as bad as forcing me to have a mastectomy."

Dr Tim Oliver of the London Hospital talks dismissively of "the one-minute-manager cancer consultant" who briskly tells his patients he has nothing more to offer. But Oliver, whose research into cancer cures involves highly toxic experimental drugs, remains unconvinced about the value of the Bristol methods. "I have published 17 papers in four years. Where are their results?" he says.

In fact an evaluation jointly carried out by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Cancer Research Campaign is not expected to be published for two years.

Dr Maurice Slevin, chairman of the cancer information service BACUP and a cancer specialist, has been a strong supporter of holistic medicine. But he emphasizes that the Bristol philosophy should be provided by the NHS within the framework of conventional medicine.

"Relaxation and stress management are already taught within St Bartholomew's and Homerton hospitals by social workers and nurses. We give simple, straightforward advice on diet and exercise because it is important to build up the patients' general fitness."

We also teach visualization, which encourages patients to imagine themselves feeling well, feeling less pain, not getting sick. But we don't tell them to imagine their white cells eating up the cancer as they do at Bristol, because we don't believe that is what happens," Slevin says.

Ovarian cancer difficult to detect

Tracking the 'silent tumour'

By Peta Levi

WHEN Helene Harris, a lively and articulate 48-year-old, died of "the silent tumour," as ovarian cancer has become known, her husband John resolved that her death should mark a turning point in research into treatment and prevention.

He set up the Helene Harris Memorial Trust in the UK three years ago and his campaign to make medical scientists listen has been instrumental in leading to many promising new approaches to detect and prevent the spread of this deeply buried cancer.

The latest is a plan by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to set up a group of scientists and doctors to study how ovarian cancer runs in families.

The initiative, which has been taken by the RCOG president, George Pinder, follows an international Forum on Ovarian Cancer organised by the Helene Harris Trust.

Ovarian cancer strikes 4,500 women in Britain a year and 85 per cent of them die within five years. The cancer is difficult to detect, especially in the early stages, and it takes only a few cells to break away for rapid spread.

Inherited factors are apparently not predominant in ovarian cancer, but Dr Bruce Ponder, cancer geneticist working with Prof Julian Peto at the Institute for Cancer Research, has found that in a proportion of cases a clear pattern of inheritance exists.

At the second Helene Harris Memorial Trust conference recently in Graz, Austria, 70 participants from 15 countries concentrated on the latest research in genetics, screening and treatment.

As a result of the Forum, Dr Ponder is already working on ways to track down families where several members have been affected and who are prepared to take part in a national research programme.

One screening technique being developed for ovarian cancer is pelvic ultrasound, but it is not yet entirely satisfactory.

Although it picks up ovarian abnormalities, it does not differentiate accurately between benign and cancerous growth. Some women will need to undergo exploratory surgery following an abnormal scan, but only in a few will ovarian cancer be found.

However, during the past two years Dr Ian Jacobs has screened 12,000 women at the London Hospital, using a test to detect the presence in blood of a chemical tumour "marker" followed by an ultrasound scan.

These combined techniques have identified four cases of ovarian cancer and are reducing the need for unnecessary exploratory surgery.

Jan Scott, consultant gynaecologist at Derby City hospital, foresees mass ovarian screening of the most vulnerable 45- to 60-year-old women eventually becoming economic at around £9 per patient — similar to the cost of a cervical smear.

John Harris, who runs an electronics company, is researching ways to improve the clarity of ultrasound screening.

Treatment with surgery and anti-cancer drugs is improving slowly, and at the Forum, particular interest was shown in the development of methods of "tagging" tumours more precisely so that radioactivity may be directed specifically at tumours without harming surrounding tissue.

Meanwhile Peter Mason, gynaecological oncologist at St Mary's, Paddington, who helped organise the Forum, advises women: "Don't think that a suddenly distended stomach is middle-age spread, but insist that your GP gives you a pelvic examination; these cancers form fluid around them which causes the stomach to swell very rapidly. Secondly, vague indigestion (especially around the age of 55) which doesn't respond to the usual treatment may be an early sign of ovarian cancer."

Alar controversy rocks US apple industry

When apples can be harmful...

By Nicholas K. Geranios

YAKIMA, Washington, (AP): The great American apple, baked in a pie and teamed with motherhood as the symbol of all that is wholesome in the United States, is once again under attack for health risks.

Alar, a chemical used to make apples crisp and more colourful, was labelled a possible carcinogen last week by the private National Resources Defence Council, adding more fuel to nationwide concerns.

That is an ironic twist for an industry that spends millions of dollars each year promoting the healthful aspects of apple consumption.

Most growers have voluntarily halted the use of alar, fearing bad publicity more than bad production. But many are bitter over a future they say is unnecessary and unfair.

"There is absolutely no imminent health risk in eating apples or apple juice or apple sauce or any other product," said Charles St John, a spokesman for the Washington Apple Commission, which has a grower-financed \$14-million annual budget to promote apples around the world.

Growth Alar is a trade name for daminozide, a chemical growth regulator marketed by Uniroyal Chemical Co. The US Environmental Protection Agency announced last month that it

intends to ban alar by 1990, but for now it is still legal to use. The cancer risk from alar was not so bad as to warrant an immediate ban, the EPA said.

Washington state grows half the nation's apples sold at grocery stores, with thousands of workers employed in packing and shipping the fruit, and making juice, apple sauce and other products.

The council's report last week warned that eating alar-treated apples increased cancer risk, especially in children.

The report said that children who consume large amounts of fruit and fruit juice face a cancer risk of about one case for every 4,200 pre-schoolers exposed to alar.

The report has been attacked by some scientists and the acting EPA head as misleading and promoting hysterical fears. Some growers are launching a counter-attack.

"It's not illegal and not in any way harmful to anybody's health," said Marv Sundquist, who co-owns an orchard near Yakima. "There are so many other things we consume every day that have so much greater risk than this would have."

The Washington Apple Commission contends only about five per cent of the acreage is sprayed with alar. The State Department of Agriculture puts the figure at about seven per cent.

The council estimates are somewhat higher, but no one

really knows for sure how much alar is sprayed because its use is not regulated. Uniroyal has said alar sales are down 75 per cent since alar fears were first raised in 1985.

Alar is not a pesticide, and it can't be washed off the apples by the consumer. It is sprayed on trees in the spring and acts to keep apples on the tree longer. That makes harvesting easier, improves the apples' colour and firmness, and extends their shelf life.

The alar dispute hits growers in the pocketbook in more ways than one. US consumers want crunchy, colourful apples, and they simply cannot be produced in national volume without chemicals, St John said.

"When you ask the consumer, 'will you buy something that is not as appealing or crunchy (but not treated with chemicals)?' They'll tell you, 'Yes, I would,'" he said. "But we know from actual practice in supermarkets that they don't."

"Americans have been so pre-conditioned that everything we purchase must be the biggest and best," he said. "Our lower grades of apples aren't as appealing ... and we are not able to sell them."

The chemical first came under a negative spotlight in 1985, and by 1986 the Washington Apple Commission was recommending that growers not use it.

The industry has hoped that the completion of extensive tests on alar would clear it for use.

Harmful for teeth

Sugar 'n' rice and everything nice...

POTATO chips, crackers and even your favourite rice dish can be as harmful to teeth as a mouthful of candy, the Academy of General Dentistry reports in the US.

Starches in bread, rice and cereal are decomposed by saliva into maltose, a sugar that is as hazardous to teeth as the sucrose found in table sugar.

Yet another danger, says academy spokesman and dentist Howard Glasser, is fructose, a sugar found in fruits and natural sweeteners like honey and molasses.

"What many people don't realize is that sugar by any other name is still sugar," he said. Research has indicated that certain foods — cheese, peanuts or sugar-free gum — can help reduce acid on the teeth that can lead to tooth decay.

"If you can reduce the acidity in your mouth by rinsing after meals and snacks you are way ahead of the game," said Glasser. "After eating almost anything, it is a good idea to brush or at least rinse with water."

"It is impossible to avoid foods containing sugar. But if the necessary precautions are taken, sweets can be enjoyed without damage to your teeth."

High-tech war against malaria

By Dean Lokken

SAN FRANCISCO, (Reuters): The high-flying technology by which governments spy on each other's military forces is now being directed against one of mankind's most deadly enemies — malaria.

Using American and French satellites and a civilian version of the U-2 spy plane, scientists are developing a method of predicting where and when malaria-carrying mosquitoes will strike.

The war against the anopheles mosquito is a critical one. More than half the world's population lives in areas where the insects are found. World health experts expect more than 100 million new cases of the disease and some 1.5 million deaths from it this year alone.

American scientists are spearheading the high-tech war against the mosquito, and numerous foreign governments and international agencies, including the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, are watching its progress.

For the past four years, scientists have studied in minute detail aerial photos taken of about 100 rice fields in California's Sacramento Valley and

correlated the fields' characteristics with the appearance of mosquito.

They now say they can predict — two months in advance and with greater than 83 per cent accuracy — the exact locations where anopheles mosquitoes will breed.

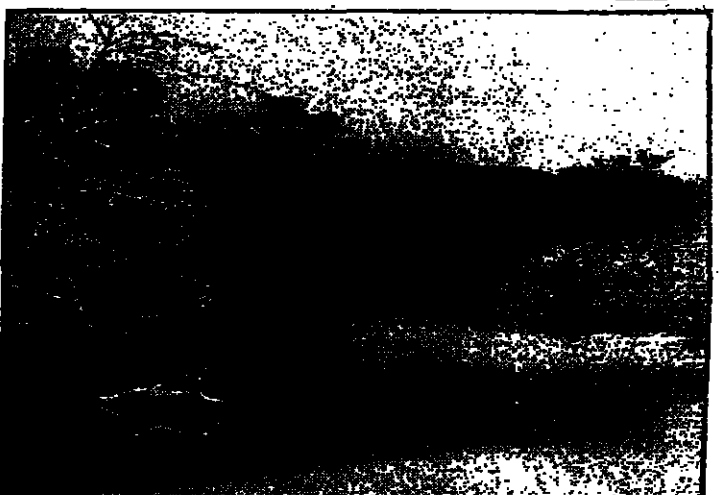
The precision is required because researchers long ago discovered that the insects, which carry the parasite that causes malaria, breed in limited areas.

Of 104 California rice fields studied, only 16 accounted for half the mosquito population.

Armed with that knowledge, the scientists think they can develop for every region of the globe infected with malaria — mainly those countries near the equator — the means to predict and plan for mosquito infestations.

"We're talking in the first week of May about what's going to happen in the latter part of July and August," Dr Robert Waschino, one of the project's scientists, told Reuters recently. "Now that's real magic."

Waschino, an entomologist at the University of California and one of the world's leading experts on the anopheles mosquito, and his colleagues plan to start correlating the satellite and air-



It is in stagnant pools like this that the anopheles mosquito breeds.

craft data with insecticide spraying in California this year.

They are using data gathered by aerospace scientists at Ames Research Centre in California.

A second phase of the fight against malaria has already been started in Mexico. A third phase, due to start some time in the 1990s, will be able to cover every country identified by the World Health Organisation as being at high risk for malaria.

Paul Sebastia, an ecologist and the project's manager, said: "We are able to mark on a map where we predict the high-producing fields will be located. They're going to be different each year because the farmers change their crops."

By learning myriad details about land and vegetation features, scientists say they can

predict where the heaviest of the mosquito populations will emerge. With advance warning, insecticides can be used to attack the breeding grounds.

Waschino said aerial reconnaissance will be a far superior means of pinpointing the development of mosquito breeding grounds.

The conventional method requires that inspectors test the fields and other potential breeding grounds first hand, using small dippers to scoop up water that is then examined for mosquito larvae. It is a slow and costly process, and provides little predictability, said Waschino.

"In a field with a low density of anopheles, to get the kind of precision you need you may have to dip a thousand times. And that's just one field," he said.

Medical Science Notebook

Knees need special attention

● Orthopedists say more than eight million people in the United States require attention for knee-related problems every year.

The specialists, who were attending a recent symposium in Chicago, said advances have been made in delaying the onset of arthritis and treating effects of the disease as well as rebuilding injured knees.

"Now it is theoretically possible to rebuild an injured knee using transplants and synthetics to replace the ligaments, cartilage, bone ends and shock-absorbing tissue called menisci that make up the knee joint," said Dr John Ewing, an orthopaedic surgeon from Akron, Ohio.

Because younger people who suffer knee injuries are not good candidates for total knee replacement, he said, the newly developing

surgical techniques may prove ideal for those who damage their knees in accidents and sports.

Walking off cholesterol

● Reducing cholesterol levels is a matter of proper diet and exercise, reports the Reebok Aerobic Information Bureau.

A research team from the University of California-Los Angeles put 16 subjects on a high-complex carbohydrate diet and a daily walking programme. After one week, the group's total cholesterol had dropped 15 per cent. Most of the change was in level of LDL, or "bad" cholesterol.

The researchers suggest a diet based on whole grains, vegetables and fruit, along with regular exercise.



FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

I.Q. TESTS AREN'T ALWAYS ACCURATE

QUESTION: There's a lot of discussion about intelligence tests in our school district. A lot of us don't think they mean very much and are frequently incorrect in their interpretation. What can an I.Q. test really measure?

ANSWER: First, let me say that perfect I.Q. tests would accurately and completely validate — and reliably predict — a person's intellectual aptitude. But there are no perfect I.Q. tests. Controversies about such things as the definition of intelligence and appropriate methods for evaluating aptitude have been with us for decades (yes, even when I took them).

The I.Q. tests you probably hear the most about are the currently popular Wechsler and the Stanford-Binet. The latter was the leader in the United States until fairly recently when the Wechsler — which measures a wider variety of verbal and performance aptitudes — was introduced.

Nevertheless, I.Q. tests — particularly those that are given individually as opposed to those administered to groups — to people over 6 years of age can be very helpful in

identifying intellectual aptitudes and their relative strengths and weaknesses in specific areas of thinking and learning abilities.

In addition, I.Q. tests can be very much useful in evaluations of patients suspected of being mentally retarded or having serious learning disabilities and attention disorders, or those who are exceptionally talented.

One of the most important elements in I.Q. scores is analyzing the specific conditions under which the test was taken, as well as various parts of the tests. Also, the tester's degree of skill and rapport with the person taking the test, scoring procedures, and the test taker's motivation to be tested, physical and psychological conditions, fatigue, and understanding of directions are important. And so you may wish to know that I.Q. tests only give indications — not absolute truths.

QUESTION: Why do doctors always write their prescriptions in Latin? My guess is that it's to keep the mystery in medicine and keep patients confused, but I suppose you'll have another point of view. What is it?

ANSWERS: Yes, I do have another point of view, and I'm happy to share it with you,

Actually, physicians do not use a lot of Latin in writing their prescriptions these days. They did in "the good old days," when pharmacists prepared prescriptions by mixing various powders and liquids requested by the physician. But today most of this preparation takes place at the drug manufacturing plant, so the physician merely names the medicine, and its dose, specifies tablet, capsule or liquid, all in English.

However, there is one part of the prescription that gives the directions for the patient that still may seem a bit confusing. It's called the "sig," from the Latin word that means "to write," and contains a great many abbreviations that simplify writing the prescription, yet clearly indicate the instructions to be included on the label. It's a lot easier writing "a.c." (for the Latin ante cibum) than "take the medication before meals," but it means exactly the same thing to those who know the abbreviations. And that takes the mystery out of that. But it still doesn't improve the handwriting of many doctors, which may be the reason you still can't decipher it!

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

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Prost aims to repeat 1988 victory in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, May 26. (Reuters): Frenchman Alain Prost aims to repeat his 1988 victory and reclaim outright leadership of the World Driver's Championship in Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix.

A triumph would be doubly sweet for the Frenchman, because he is still waiting to avenge Ayrton Senna's trickery in last month's San Marino Grand Prix at Imola.

Reigning champion and co-leader Senna admitted he broke a private agreement with his McLaren team-mate by forcing his way into the lead on the first lap of that re-started race — an admission which upset Prost.

Prost, beaten by Senna again in Monaco, said there that his relationship with the Brazilian was now strained to the limit. But he also admitted he needed to find greater reserves of aggression if he was to beat his rival and claim the world title for a third time.

Last year, Prost finished more than seven seconds ahead of Senna on the 4.421 kms altitude circuit. The two Ferraris followed the Honda-powered McLarens home.

A similar result seems likely again since McLaren have already proved to be a formidable package again this year. Only Briton-Nigel Mansell, who took his Ferrari to victory in the opening in Brazil, has broken their stranglehold this season.

Mansell's Austrian team-mate Gerhard Berger will be back in action in Mexico, just one month after he crashed in flames at Imola. Berger, badly burned in the accident, was told he was fit to race on Tuesday.

Berger and Mansell have both been successful in Mexico — the Austrian winning with Benetton in 1986 and Mansell for Williams in 1987.

Both of their former teams could have a say in the outcome on the bumpy Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, though Benetton are unlikely to run their new car powered by Ford's latest V-8 Formula One engine.

Williams, however, could prove very competitive. Their Renault engines have improved with each race and the team's confidence is high after lengthy test sessions on fast tracks.

But both Williams drivers have laced their optimism with caution.

Italian Riccardo Patrese said: "It is a very difficult circuit because it is very bumpy and the grip is poor. At no other circuit in the world do you find these characteristics."

Belgian Thierry Boutsen said: "You have to have a car which is good over the bumps and that will take all four practice and qualifying sessions to sort out."

Flames clinch Stanley Cup

MONTREAL, May 26. (Reuters): Doug Gilmour scored two third period goals to help the Calgary Flames beat the Montreal Canadiens 4-2 yesterday and clinch Calgary's first Stanley Cup championship ever.

The win gave the Flames victory in their best-of-seven series by four games to two.

Montreal, which has 23 Stanley Cup championship banners hanging from the Forum rafters, lost the Cup on home ice for the first time in the Forum, which opened November 29, 1924.

The Flames scored the only goal of the first period when Colin Patterson beat Montreal goalie Patrick Roy with a 35-foot slapshot at 18:51.

English soccer could go behind closed doors, says British minister

MANCHESTER, England, May 26. (Reuters): English football clubs could be forced to play big matches behind closed doors under government proposals to improve safety, British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan said yesterday.

He said clubs which could not afford all-seater stadiums would have to apply for special licences for big matches. If

they failed to meet safety requirements the licences would be turned down and no spectators allowed.

Moynihan said the government was holding discussions with soccer authorities to decide which grounds should be designated all-seater.

He said the measure was envisaged as part of a bill for a national football membership scheme and had taken on

added significance since last month's Hillsborough disaster.

Meanwhile, a police commander at a British soccer match last month when 95 people were crushed to death acknowledged yesterday he should have ordered measures to control a fatal surge by hundreds of fans.

Chief superintendent David Duckenfield said he allowed the fans into

Sheffield's Hillsborough stadium when he ordered a gate opened to relieve a crush among Liverpool supporters outside the entrance.

But he told the eighth day of an inquiry into the disaster he did not follow that up with specific instructions to police as the fans streamed towards the tunnel to packed standing-room-only terraces.

"Yes," he replied, when asked by lawmakers representing survivors and the bereaved if he had made a mistake and hoped others would remedy it.

Duckenfield said it was a moment of crisis and he was relying on officers on the spot to deal with the situation.

He also said that when fans began to scramble over perimeter fencing to escape the crush, he thought it was a

pitch invasion. Also yesterday, British Football Association chiefs said they had lost some public confidence after the disaster and had set up emergency committee to look at soccer troubles.

The group, comprising FA council members and Football League representatives, aims to make fresh proposals to the inquiry.

Milan crush Steaua

Gullit & Co. win European Cup

BARCELONA, May 26. (Reuters): Dutchmen Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten each scored two goals as AC Milan crushed Steaua Bucharest 4-0 in spectacular style on Wednesday to win the European Cup for the third time.

Gullit, making his first appearance in the Italian champions' starting line-up since a cartilage operation last month, struck twice in the first half and inspired a dazzling team performance before limping off after 60 minutes.

He and Van Basten, who scored once in each half, were the outstanding performers in a display which revived the glorious early years of the European Cup and provided the 97,000 spectators at the Nou Camp stadium with a magnificent, if one-sided, soccer carnival.

The Romanian champions, winners of the trophy in 1986 when they beat Barcelona on penalties in Seville, were never allowed into the game by the most awesome all-round team in Europe.

Milan goalkeeper Giovanni Galli was not required to make a serious save.

Milan had previously won the trophy in 1963 and 1969 with unambitious defensive performances against Benfica and Ajax, but this third and long-awaited triumph was achieved with wave upon wave of majestic attacking play.

The win was the biggest in a European Cup final since 1974 when Bayern Munich beat Atletico Madrid by the same score in a replay following 1-1 draw.

Milan, in all-white instead of their traditional black-and-red stripes,



Gullit (right) celebrates after scoring the first goal for his team. (Reuters wirephoto)

revived memories of the great Real Madrid side of the 1950s with their near-perfect mixture of team play and individual skills.

With Gullit and Van Basten, playing as a duel strike-force, comprehensively outwitting and outpacing the Steaua defence from the start, Milan were always in command.

The Dutch pair, powerfully supported by Frank Rijkaard, the third Milan member of the Netherlands' 1988 European championship-winning, threatened from the first whistle.

Carlo Ancelotti had a shot saved, Van Basten was blocked and the elusive Roberto Donadoni was chopped down by Adrian Bumbescu in the opening

10 minutes as Steaua fought desperately and often illegally to survive.

It seemed Milan had broken through after 16 minutes when Gullit ran on to a superbly angled through ball from libero and captain Franco Baresi, but his low cross-shot bounced off the far post.

Two minutes later Gullit put Milan ahead. Angel Colombo exchanged passes with Mauro Tassotti on a run from midfield, Silvia Lung could only parry his shot and Gullit was left with an empty net.

Van Basten added the second 10 minutes later when he rose to meet a well-judged cross from Tassotti with a powerful downward header past Lung.



Gullit holds the European Cup. (Reuters wirephoto)

Maradona plans wedding

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 26. (AP): Soccer star Diego Maradona said on Wednesday he plans to invite 3,000 guests, including teammates from Napoli, Italy, when he marries longtime companion Claudia Villafane next September.

"It's going to be a sensational party," Maradona said. "I'm going to throw the house out the window. We're going to sing and dance all night. There will be everything from water to champagne, meat to seafood, and wine, a lot of wine."

Maradona, 28, and Villafane have been inseparable for a decade. The couple has two daughters, one of whom was born last week.

Maradona can afford to fly his guests in by charter plane, as he proposes. He reportedly earns \$3.8 million a year playing forward for Napoli, plus more for promotional appearances. Maradona is one the best known soccer players in the world.

PSV complete Dutch double for 2nd time

ROTTERDAM, May 26. (Reuters): PSV Eindhoven completed their second Dutch soccer double in a row yesterday beating FC Groningen 4-1 in the Cup final.

With the Cup added to their fourth League title in succession, PSV showed they still rule supreme in Dutch soccer.

But the match was a sad moment, too, as the Eindhoven fans had to bid farewell to the side's outstanding libero Ronald Koeman, who moves to Barcelona next season under Dutch coach Johan Cruyff.

Koeman failed to shine against Groningen, but Brazilian striker Romario made a strong impression at the end of his first season for the Dutch side, opening the score in the second minute with a sharp shot at close range and setting up

PSV's second goal just before halftime. Taking control of the ball in midfield, the Brazilian raced forward to pass to Juul Ellerman, whose shot beat Groningen goalkeeper Johan Tukker.

Ellerman headed in a corner from Koeman in the 52nd minute to take PSV's tally to three.

British soccer

LONDON, May 26. (Reuters): Results of English League promotion play-off semifinal, second-leg soccer matches on Wednesday and yesterday:

Crystal	2	Swindon	2	(Aggregate: 2-1)
Watford	1	Blackburn	1	(Aggregate: 1-1)
After extra time. Score at 90 minutes 1-1. Blackburn win on away goals rule.				
Fulham	0	Bristol R	4	(Aggregate: 0-5)
Port Vale	3	Preston	1	(Aggregate: 4-2)
Division Four				
Sc. borough	1	Leyton Orient	0	(Aggregate 1-2)
Scunthorpe	0	Wrexham	2	(Aggregate 1-5)

Mears' big favourite to repeat as Indy winner

INDIANAPOLIS, May 26. (Reuters): California driver Rick Mears, the fastest in qualifying, is an overwhelming favourite to win his second straight Indianapolis 500-mile race and fourth of his career on Sunday. Mears, driving the Pennzoil Penske PC18-Chevrolet, captured pole position for the 73rd running of the race with a record four-lap speed average of 360.30 kph. He heads a 33-car field that averaged 348.55 kph, also a record.

"Everybody's got more faith in me than I do," said Mears. "You just never know about this place until you take the chequered flag."

A fourth victory would put Mears level with veterans A.J. Foyt and Al Unser among Indy winners. Foyt, who qualified for his 32nd consecutive race, is 54 and Unser will be 50 the day after the race. Mears is only 37.

Unser, who is Mears' team-mate, will start next to him in the middle of the front row. In yesterday's final practice session, Unser recorded the fastest time at 349.87 kph.

"I don't like to talk about numbers until I'm gone," Unser said about his chance of becoming the first five-time winner.

Completing the front row is Emerson Fittipaldi, the former world Formula One champion from Brazil, who drives for the Pat Patrick team but, has the same PC18-Chevrolet car driven by Mears and Unser.

"I think this is the best chance I have to win the 500," Fittipaldi, 42, said.

The second row is made up of veterans Jim Crawford of Britain, Mario Andretti, the 1969 winner, and Scott Brayton.

Crawford wrecked and severely damaged his Lola-Buick in practice last week. It was sent to Huntington, England, for repairs and arrived back on Wednesday. He pronounced it fit with a speed of 345.59 kph. "Very near perfect," he said.

Another using yesterday's practice as a last check was 1985 winner Danny Sullivan, who broke an arm two weeks ago and had surgery so he could compete. He drove his Penske team car at 347.58 kph yesterday despite steering with a cast on his arm.

The surprise of yesterday's session was Italian driver Teo Fabi, who turned in a lap of 349.59 kph in his March-Porsche. His qualifying speed had been 346.91 kph.

Yount helps Brewers sail past Athletics

NEW YORK, May 26. (AP): Robin Yount doubled in the go-ahead run in the fifth inning as the Milwaukee Brewers defeated pitcher Dave Stewart for the first time with a 4-1 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Stewart, 8-2, was removed in the eighth inning after giving up nine hits, including five doubles, and all four runs. He entered the game with a 9-0 record against the Brewers.

Milwaukee starter Bryan Clutterbuck, 2-1, allowed four hits before his shoulder stiffened after six innings. Dan Plesac got the final four outs for his ninth save.

Brewers rookie Bill Spiers hit a ground-rule double in the fifth and scored on Yount's double off the fence in right centre. Dave Parker homered for Oakland in the first inning.

Results				
American League				
Detroit	9	Cleveland	5	
Milwaukee	4	Oakland	1	
N.Y. Yankees	8	California	6	
Boston	10	Seattle	0	
National League				
San Diego	2	N.Y. Mets	1	
Montreal	2	San Francisco	3	
Pittsburgh	7	Atlanta	3	
Los Angeles	7	Philadelphia	6	

Dr Astaphan recorded telephone conversations

Johnson admits using steroids

TORONTO, May 26. (Reuters): A Canadian inquiry into the use of drugs in sport yesterday listened to a tape recording of disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson admitting he had used steroids.

"You haven't used any of the white stuff — the steroids — since December? Dr. George Mario (Jamie) Astaphan, Johnson's doctor, asked during the telephone conversation he said was taped on January 29, 1988.

"Part of it, yeah," Johnson replied on the tape.

"More left in the bottle?" the doctor asked.

"Yeah," the sprinter said. Astaphan said he taped conversations with Johnson and others, including coach Charlie Francis, sprinter Angella Issajenko and Italian sprinter Pier Francesco Pavoni, after realising his precarious position if a steroid scandal broke.

Johnson, who continues training in Toronto while banned from competition and awaiting his turn to testify, has denied he



Dr Jamie Astaphan

knowingly took the banned drugs that cost him a 100 metres gold medal and world record at last year's Seoul Olympics. The inquiry also heard tapes in

which Astaphan discussed steroids on the telephone with Francis, Issajenko and Pavoni.

Astaphan, who said he was keeping many copies of the tapes in bank vaults, testified that he started making them after a meeting with Johnson in August 1987 in Rome where Johnson set the current world record of 9.83 seconds for the 100 metres.

Astaphan also said he believed Johnson lied to his handlers when told he had failed a drug test and would be stripped of his gold medal.

He described how Johnson's coach, Charlie Francis, phoned the doctor's room at the Seoul H... early last September 26 to say Johnson had tested positive for a banned substance — which turned out to be the steroid stan- ozolol.

"I said 'Charlie' — and I used the expression 'F — off' — and I said 'don't bother me' and hung up. I thought Charlie was just up to some hijinks. I didn't find that amusing any time."

Astaphan said Francis called back and the truth became apparent. Asked what his reaction was then, Astaphan replied: "That's impossible."

He said he went to Johnson's hotel room and asked him three times: "Have you taken anything from anyone else?"

Johnson responded with three denials, but Astaphan said he knew he was not being honest.

"From the look on his face I knew he was lying. I came to the conclusion he had done something he didn't want us to find out," Astaphan said.

"I didn't mean Ben was maliciously lying, and went out and wilfully had taken stan- ozolol. He had a sheepish look as though he had done something and as though he were sorry."

Astaphan insisted that Olympic doping tests could not have detected the banned substances he had given to Johnson.

"There's no way he could have tested positive with what he was on," Astaphan said.

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Jarallah on his way to victory.

Driver: Mishaal Al Jarallah B-
Throttle: Ananda Fernando A-

Jarallah shows his joy at winning the race.



The champion raises his trophy.

Jarallah wins offshore powerboat race

Al Banai finishes 10 seconds behind in second place

By Gail Seery

MISHAL AL JARALLAH and Ananda Fernando came in first in yesterday's fourth Bi-annual Offshore Powerboat race, ten seconds ahead of Thabit Al Banai and Ali Hassan Jasem, one hour after starting the race. Third place was taken by Khalifa Al Qatami and Jamal Al Nafisi, with Abdullah and Khaled Al Ansari in fourth place.

Jarallah was driving a 25ft Cougar Sportscat powered by 2 Mercury 2.4 e.f.i. engines, under the sponsorship of the Mobile Telephone Systems Company, and pulled away from the rest of the boats before turning point 1, maintaining his lead throughout the rest of the race.

However, he did not race without problems: "The engines cut out four times due to a problem with the throttle position indicator which is part of the electronic fuel injection system, and measures the amount of air going into the fuel mixture."

"The boat started cutting at 6,300 revs, so we kept it on 6,000, but every time the boat came out of the water we had to reduce speed. When the engine cut we had to start it as we went. Rough water would have given us more problems."

This is Jarallah's first win in Kuwait, and he and his throttleman Fernando were delighted. "I'd like to thank God — and my mechanics," said a jubilant Jarallah.

Thabit Al Banai reported no problems, and has finished his first race, although he was already gaining a reputation as a fast, but unlucky racer. Hopefully this result will be matched and improved upon in future races. He was driving a Tigercat 24 footer, with two Yamaha 200 engines.

Banai was one of the first away when the green flag was raised for the start of the race, along with Khaled Al Sayegh in the yellow Tigercat which formerly belonged to Mohammed Karam.

Al Sayegh was running second to Jarallah at turning point 2, but had dropped out completely by the next circuit of the race. Giveaway 3, crewed by Abdullah and Khaled Al Ansari had also been fast starters but had then slowed due to problems with the rpm in the right engine.

Al Qatami had a more basic problem with his boat which kept

him in third position. He had lost a propeller in the Sea Club race, and was unable to locate a suitable spare in the lead-up to yesterday's race. "We changed the propeller last night," said Qatami, driving a red, Darlings-sponsored Tigercat with twin Mercury 220s.

"One is a 32 and the other is a 30, so the boat was playing all the time, and we couldn't control it." "The boat was moving like a belly dancer," added Jamal Al Nafisi, his throttleman.

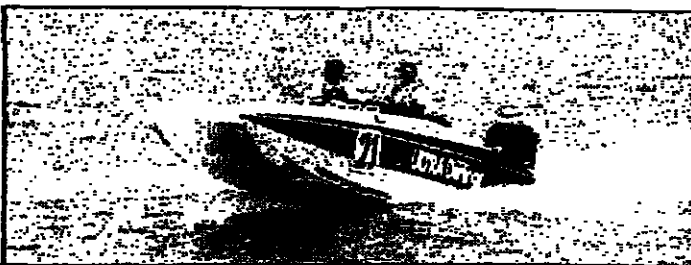
Novice racers Sheikh Athbi Fahad Al Sabah and Sheikh Khaled Fahad Al Sabah in Giveaway 4 seemed to encounter navigational problems, but came in to fifth place, a commendable showing against strong position. Last home was Khaled Al Khaled driving a Gulfcraft 19ft.

Hossam Al Sayef started the race, arriving in the nick of time after engine problems had stopped him between the slipway and the Messilah Beach Hotel. However, he stopped again on the start line and could not continue. Boat number 16 driven by Hisham Yousef Al Shayer retired after turning point 2. Nine boats started the 66-mile race, and six finished.

Sadly, at the end of the day, the back-biting which is threatening to stop this sport re-emerged, after what had seemed like a splendid show of solidarity among the racers earlier in the week.

A protest had been brought, querying whether Jarallah was using electronic navigation aids. "I checked the boat very closely after the race and before, and I have to say that there was no base whatsoever to the protest," said organiser Wael Khoury. Khoury added that he had also spoken to the protesters, and had looked into the allegation from every side before dismissing it.

Results:
1. Mishaal Al Jarallah/Ananda Fernando/Cougar 25 + Mercury 2.4efi, time 1 hour.
2. Thabit Al Banai/Ali Hassan Jasem/Tigercat 24 + Yamaha 200s 10 seconds behind Jarallah.
3. Khalifa Al Qatami/Jamal Al Nafisi/Tigercat 24 + Mercury 220s 3.45 behind Jarallah.
4. Abdullah Al Ansari/Khaled Al Ansari/Tigercat 24 + Mercury 200s 5.45 behind Jarallah.
5. Athbi Al Sabah/Khaled Al Sabah/Tigercat 24 + Mercury 200s 22.45 behind Jarallah.
6. Khaled Al Khaled/Gulfcraft 19 27.45 behind Jarallah.



Qatami and Nafisi in action.



All the winners pictured with their trophies.



Banai on his way to second place.



Banai (centre) and Jasem with their trophy.



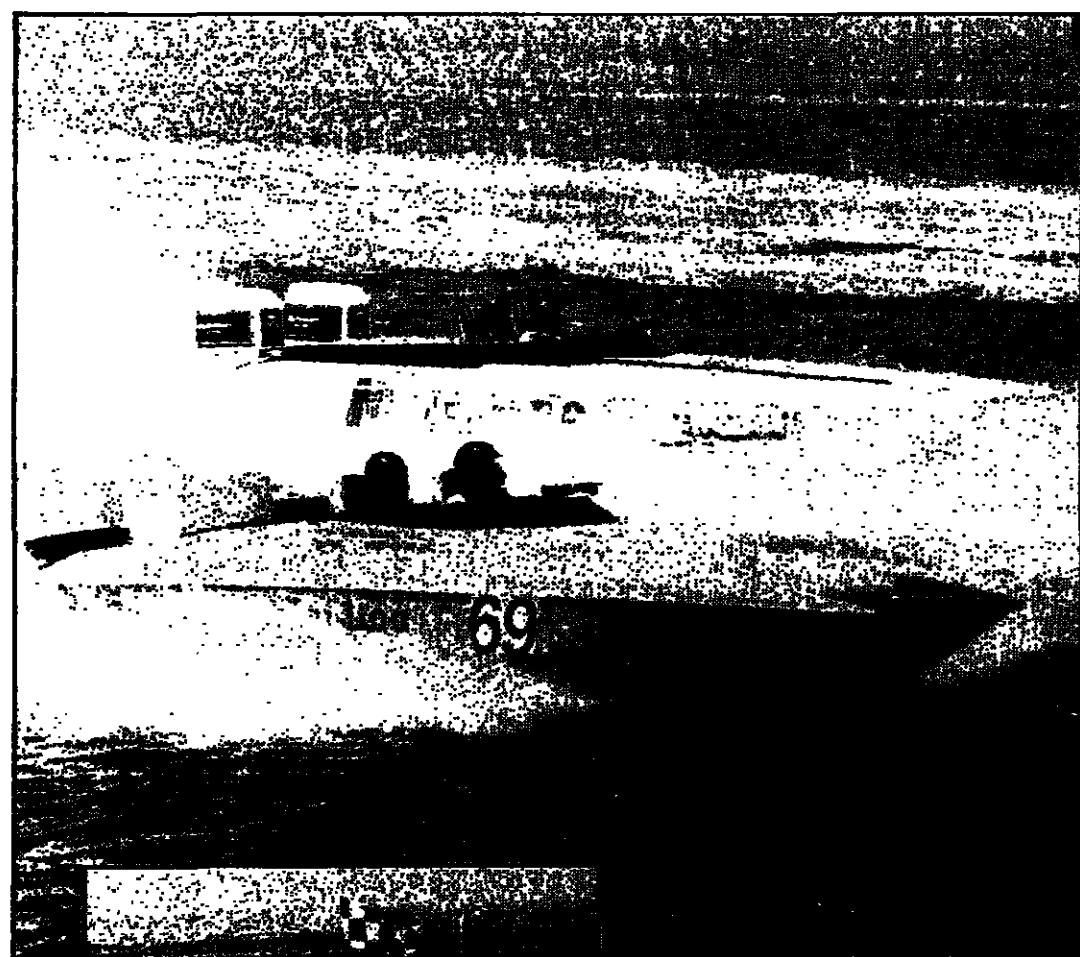
Fernando



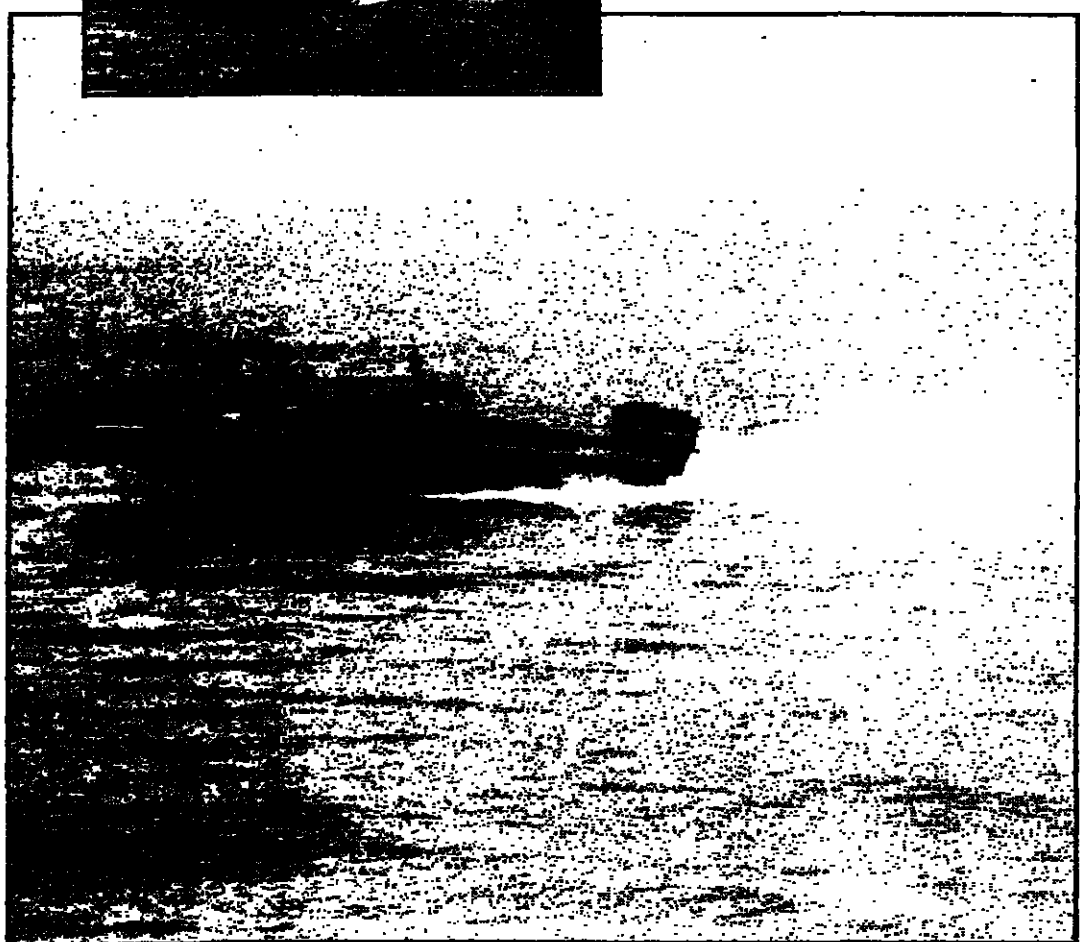
Nafisi (centre) and Qatami with their prize.



Wael Khoury



All the boats get off to a quick start.



The Ansari brothers: on their way to 4th place. Inset: Jarallah takes the chequered flag.

Photos by Gail Seery, Mark Williams and Ahmed Barouni.

For the first time commentary provided on turn by turn basis: Khoury

THE organiser for yesterday's successful fourth bi-annual powerboat race was Wael Khoury, who formerly acted as Clerk of the Course for the 1988 Kuwait International Rally.

Khoury is a keen motorsports fan, and was formerly a rally driver. He made his debut organising powerboat races last year in the 2nd Bi-annual Offshore Powerboat

race, and feels that yesterday's event was the most controlled race he has seen. "It was fantastic. The communications were good and for the first time we were able to provide a commentary on a turn by turn basis." The communications cover was provided by the Mobile Telephone Systems Company.

The Coast Guard had provided a very good service in their eagerness

to learn from the problems they encountered in the last race, and earlier had stressed the importance of strong communications. They provided large boats at the key turns and also allocated patrol boats to check the route and assist any racers who encountered problems. The Sea Club race saw three boats lost, and safety was the main priority of the Coast Guards for yesterday's race.

They had also advised changing the route to a more manageable series of triangles, close to shore, which saw racers pass in front of the Messilah Beach Hotel four times.

Spectators agreed that this was the first time they had been able to see more than a few fleeting seconds of the race, and of course, the main point was that, if the racers encountered difficulties it would be

straightforward for the coast guard to reach and help them.

A group of voluntary marshalls also manned boats at the turning points, and helped to check that every boat conformed to regulations, was sea-worthy and had full safety equipment on board.

The Arab Times would like to take this opportunity of thanking them, as without their enthusiasm

and time the race could not have taken place. This is particularly true in the case of Wael Khoury and Michelle Lorimer, both of whom put a vast amount of time into making the race a success. We would also like to thank the Messilah Beach Hotel for their patience and help and all who helped by donating prizes.

There is no doubt that racing in

Kuwait is improving in quality, and that much more is within our reach. For this reason we need more races, not fewer, and we look forward to a race built on solid experience, with strong communications, a good course, strong safety control and adequate funding.

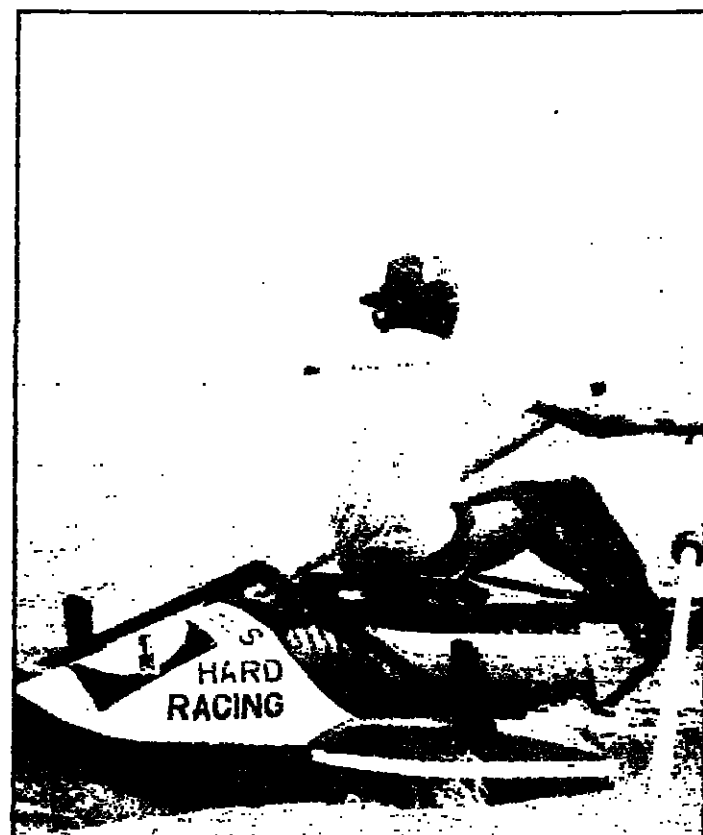
"We need more support," says Khoury. "We can make the races better organised."



Some of the competitors get off to a fast start.



A young boy watches the race.



Hard Racing: Richard Duncan on his way to third place in the wood and rope raft event. J. Hromatka finished 2nd on the same raft.

Hash House dominates annual raft race

Harriers and Harriets take top prizes

By Nirmala Janssen
Arab Times staff

IT was Hash House Harriers and Harriets all the way at the Third Kuwait Annual Raft Race, organised at the Messilah Beach Hotel yesterday.

Four Hash teams that entered the annual race swept clear all four race trophies in a show of speed, fitness and an excellent team spirit.

Hash Pash with captain C. Mould took the Jashanmal Ladies Welded Raft Race Trophy while Hash Mash with captain E. Witterveen took the mixed Welded Raft Race Trophy. Hash Slash and Hash Flash under Dave Reeves and Mike Griffin took the Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah Mens Welded Trophy and the Messilah Beach Hotel Wood and Rope Raft Race Trophy respectively.

Of the 39 teams that entered the raft race the Hash teams were tagged to be overall champions because they won all the heats during the early part of the day.

Kuwait Danish Dairy, this year's race sponsors entered several new teams in the race but got nowhere especially since the Hash brothers and sisters did not give anybody else the faintest chance. KDD however received a trophy for the best constructed wood and rope raft — Carolina for its ingenuity. How the raft stayed afloat without the drums being welded was quite surprising.

All rafts were scrutinised at 8.00 am and the race was officially opened by Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Governor of Kuwait City at 10 am.

The heat and excitement was high among the thousands that bought tickets to watch the raft race and generally enjoy an uninhibited day of fun at the beach.

The American embassy team were disappointed once more this year as they lost to the indomitable Hash House teams but their entry Sempre Fi with Rose Navarro as captain took third place in the Jashanmal Ladies welded raft race final and

second place in the mixed welded raft race final with Ladd Robson as captain.

Dutch entries were unbelievably high this year as KLM and KLM air crew entered four teams in the race. Although the Flying Dutch men and the Flying Dutch ladies did not do too well, the Flight Deck under captain J. Leuvelink took third place in the Mixed Welded Raft Race.

Other new teams from the Kuwait International Hotel, the Airport Hotel and the Kuwait English School brought a welcome addition to the challenge of the race. Although the young ladies on the Hospitality Cruises of the Kuwait International Hotel came in fourth in the Ladies Welded Raft race heats, they fizzled out in the finals.

Kuwait International Hotel however won a trophy for the KDD carnival best constructed raft and another one for the KDD best overall carnival raft trophy. KIH's space raft really had no competition in the carnival parade.

The most unique raft in the

race was Hard Racing. This raft made from a single drum and paddled with very long oars brought Jean Hromatka second

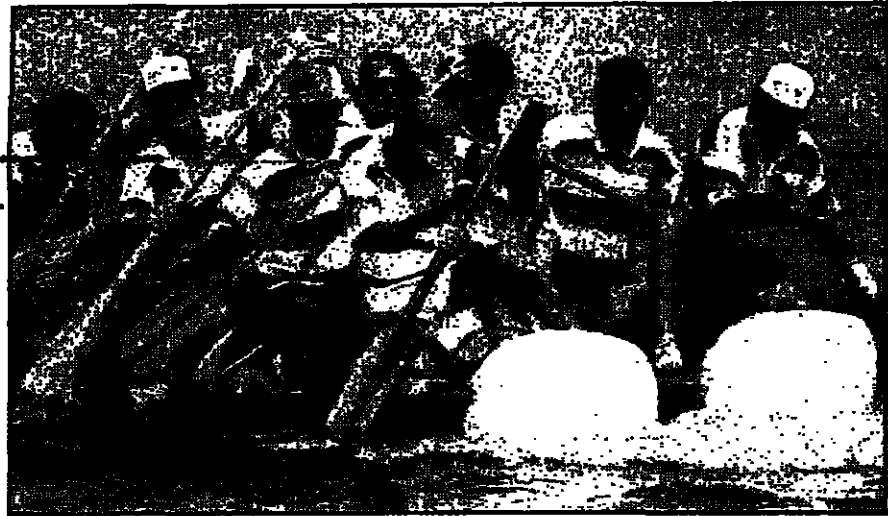
place in the ladies welded raft race and bestowed a prize on Richard Duncan who constructed the raft.

Results

Team	Captain	Sponsors	Timing
Hash Pash	C. Mould	Mercedes	2.55 mins
Hard Racing	J. Hromatka	Hempels	3.32 mins
Sempre Fi	Rose Navarro	US Embassy	3.59 mins
Mixed Welded Raft Race final			
Hash Mash	E. Witterveen	Mercedes	3.17 mins
Sempre Fi	Ladd Robson	US Embassy	3.48 mins
Flight Deck	J. Leuvelink	KLM crew	3.53 mins
Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah's Men's Welded Raft Race final			
Hash Slash	Dave Reeves	Mercedes	4.28 mins
RC Special	Robert Chapman	Messilah Beach	5.24 mins
Laser Blazers	Roger Brown	B.P. Alghamir	5.34 mins
Messilah Beach Hotel Wood and Rope Raft Race			
Hash Flash	Mike Griffin	Mercedes	4.57 mins
Staying Power	Mike Robinson	Mike/MBH	5.37 mins
Yuk Fu 2	Andy Crawford	Shower of Tossers	5.53 mins
MBH mens welded and wood and rope plate competition for the mens teams that did not make the final			
Sea Craft	Barbara Adams	Kellogs	5.33 mins
Best constructed wood and rope raft	Ron Houston	Kuwait Danish Dairy	
Best designed and decorated raft	Richard Duncan	Hempels	
Hard Racing			
KDD carnival Best Constructed Raft Trophy	M. Fuhrmann	Kuwait Intl. Hotel	
KIH Space Raft			
KDD carnival Best Dressed Crew Trophy	Al Yousufi	National	
KDD Best Overall Carnival Raft Trophy	M. Fuhrmann	Kuwait Intl. Hotel	
KIH Space Craft			



The Hash House Harriers win the race.



The Laser Blazers: trying to catch the leaders



Space Craft: won the Best Overall Carnival Raft Trophy



Photos by Javed Basra, Mark Williams and Ahmed Barouni. One of the teams enjoying the proceedings. Inset: a member of the Space Craft.

England meet Scotland

Waddle wants to replace Barnes

GLASGOW, May 26. (Reuter): England winger Chris Waddle is hoping a good performance against traditional rivals Scotland at Hampden Park tomorrow will help re-establish him in the national team at the expense of Liverpool's John Barnes.

England meet Scotland for the 107th time in the world's oldest soccer international, now part of the three-nation Rous Cup. Both squads are weakened by the absence of players from Liverpool and Arsenal, who were playing this evening in the English League title decider.

Waddle, who has made 41

international appearances, has recently been kept out of the England side by Barnes, despite playing some of the best football of his career for his club Tottenham.

He returned for last month's World Cup qualifier against Albania, Barnes having made himself unavailable following the Hillsborough stadium disaster.

England won 5-0 that night with Waddle among the goalscorers. But he was more subdued as they struggled in a disappointing 0-0 draw with Chile in the opening Rous Cup match at Wembley on Tuesday.

He will be a key figure in an inexperienced England attack, striker Gary Lineker also missing the match because of club commitments with Barcelona.

Scotland have performed excellently in their World Cup qualifying matches and look set to reach the finals for the fifth successive time.

They, too, will be below full strength tomorrow with injury depriving them of Glasgow Rangers' pair Richard Gough and Ian Ferguson and Everton striker Graeme Sharp. In addition to absent Liverpool defenders Gary Gillespie, Alan Hansen and Steve Nicol.

However, a passionate, capacity crowd of over 70,000 is assured for the match. Many Scottish supporters regard victory over England, 'The Old Enemy', as the highpoint of the season.

The final match in the Rous Cup series will be played next Tuesday when Scotland meet Chile in Glasgow.

Scotland — to be announced. England — Peter Shilton, Gary Stevens, Des Walker, Terry Butcher, Stuart Pearce, Neil Webb, Bryan Robson, Trevor Steven, John Fashanu, Tony Cottee, Chris Waddle.



Tennis Nations Fun Cup



Germany A beat India in the final to clinch the title at the Tennis Nations Fun Cup, which ended at the Kuwait Regency Palace on Thursday. The event was being held on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Federal Republic of West Germany, which had reached the final by beating Egypt in their semifinal and United States in the quarterfinal. India beat Czechoslovakia in their semifinal. India were led by Abraham Parampil while Michael Schmidt, the tournament organiser, led the West Germans. Left: The West Germans with their trophies and right: the Indian team after finishing as runners-up. (Photos by Mohammed Baidaq).

SOCCER

Van Basten wants time to decide on move to Spain

MILAN, Italy, May 26. (Reuter): Dutch striker Marco van Basten, who scored twice in AC Milan's 4-0 rout of Steaua Bucharest in the European Cup final, says he needs more time to decide on a possible transfer to Barcelona.

Van Basten, whose three-year contract with AC Milan expires next season, is torn by divided loyalties.

Milan's chairman, tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, is keen to renew Van Basten's contract. During his two years in Milan the Dutch international has forged a formidable partnership with compatriots Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard.


But Van Basten, current European Footballer of the Year, is equally indebted to Barcelona coach Johann Cruyff, his friend and former mentor, who has said he would be happy to renew the understanding he had with Van Basten, striker when they were together at Ajax Amsterdam.

On his return from the European Cup final, Van Basten said he knew Berlusconi was in a hurry to renew his contract, but he wanted to wait for making a decision.

"The truth is I don't know what to do, so I want to take some time to reflect, perhaps until next January," he said.

"People here in Italy jump to conclusions too quickly. Many think I'm already on my way to Barcelona, but I may have a surprise in store."

Van Basten is reported to have discussed with friends the idea of spending three years in Barcelona before returning to end his career with Ajax.



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SPORTS BRIEFS

America's Cup

AUCKLAND, May 26, (Reuters): Legal wrangling over the America's Cup means New Zealand will have to postpone their defence of yachting's most prestigious prize until 1992 at the earliest.

Triptych killed

PARIS, Ky., May 26, (Reuters): Champion European mare Triptych, who was retired to a bluegrass breeding farm last year after a 41-race career, was fatally injured in a freak accident in which she ran into a security truck, a Claiborne Farm spokesman said yesterday. The mare died early on Wednesday.

Sailing record

SAN FRANCISCO, May 26, (AP): The Trimaran Great American struggled north in strong winds and choppy seas yesterday evening, less than a half-day's sail from the Golden Gate and a new record for the 14,500 passage from New York to San Francisco around Cape Horn.

John McEnroe

BECKENHAM, England, May 26, (Reuters): John McEnroe, who pulled out of the French Open starting next Monday because of back trouble, will play in the Beckenham grass-court tournament from June 5 to 11, organisers said yesterday.

Cup semifinal

MARSEILLE, France, May 26, (Reuters): Marseille, who captured the French Soccer League title five days ago, took a big step towards completing the double when they beat Auxerre 2-0 in a Cup semifinal first leg match yesterday.

W. German soccer

BONN, May 26, (Reuters): West German First Division soccer results yesterday:

Eintracht F	1	Borussia M	1
Nuremberg	1	Borussia D	1
St Paul	1	Stuttgart K	0
Karlsruhe	2	Bayer L	3
Waldhof M	0	Hamburg	0
Cologne	0	Bayern M	3
Bayer U	7	Hanover	3
Bochum	0	Werder B	1

Team tennis

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 26, (Reuters): Results of the third round of round-robin group one matches at the World Team Cup men's tennis tournament today: Argentina v Czechoslovakia (Argentina names first); Guillermo Perez-Roldan beat Miloslav Mecir 7-5 6-8; Martin Jaitt beat Milan Srejber 6-1 4-6 7-5; Argentina took a 2-0 winning lead over Czechoslovakia to win Group One and reach tomorrow's final. Sweden v Austria (Sweden names first) Stefan Edberg beat Darren Cahill 6-1 7-6; Jonas Svensson beat Mark Woodforde 5-7 6-1 6-2.

Sweden took a 2-0 winning lead with one doubles rubber to play.

European Open

GENEVA, May 26, (Reuters): Quarterfinal results in the women's \$100,000 European Open tennis tournament on Friday were (prefix number denotes seeding):

Laura Garrone (Italy) beat Laura Lapi (Italy) 7-6 (7-3) 6-4; Conchita Martinez (Spain) beat Belinda Cordwell (New Zealand), w.o. injured; 3-Manuela Maleva (Bulgaria) beat Elise Burgin (US) 6-4 6-1.

BRIDGE

THE Messiah Ladies Bridge Club will be holding their end of the Year Tournament on Monday, June 5, at 9.00 pm at the Messiah premises. Results of the Messiah Ladies Bridge Club games held on Monday: Sharing first: Nahil Akel - Lollo Murthwaite and Margaret Maynard & Helen Hughes 3rd. Margaret Rob-Whitaker & Chofraan Mikail. The Regency Ladies Bridge Club will be holding their end of the Year Tournament on Wednesday, May 31, at the Regency premises. Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game held on Wednesday: 1. Randa Finan & Ghada Saraf; Sharing second: Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite and Jamila Akel & Margaret Rob-Whitaker.

GP circuit opens with athletics under cloud

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 26, (Reuters): An athletics world torn by scandal sets out this weekend to regain respect on the track with the opening of the 1989 Grand Prix series.

But tomorrow's Bruce Jenner Classic and the 16 Grand Prix meetings in Europe will be hard put to cleanse a sport stained by accusations of rampant steroid use and hit by the absence of 1988's biggest names — disgraced Ben Johnson and the retired Florence Griffith Joyner.

The scandal, which has implicated numerous other athletes in Canada and the

United States, has dominated media coverage for weeks, especially in North America where interest in athletics is perhaps at an all-time low.

Interest appears strong in Europe, where most of the Grand Prix meetings and the year's top event — the World Cup in Barcelona in September — will be staged.

But even there fans must search for new confrontations now that one of the biggest of the decade — Johnson against American Carl Lewis — has been wiped

out by Johnson's banishment for the positive dope test in Seoul.

Lewis says he will try to fill the void with world record attempts in the 100 metres and long jump, events for which he won gold in Seoul. But the absence of Johnson and the colourful Griffith Joyner will be difficult to overcome.

Even the World Cup will be missing some of the sport's best, with Lewis and Kenyan Olympic champions John Ngugi, Paul Ereng and Peter Rono among those planning to skip the meeting.

The prospect of other duels remains

undimmed, however — between world mile record holder Steve Cram of Britain and Moroccan 1,500 metres world record holder Said Aouita and at least one clash between US-Olympic champion Steve Lewis and 400 metres world record holder Butch Reynolds.

Carl Lewis, Larry Myricks and Mike Powell look set for a showdown in the long jump during the Grand Prix season. Myricks has said several times he wants to break Bob Beamon's 21-year-old world record of 8.90 in 1968.

England overwhelm Australia

Foster and DeFreitas wreck tourists

MANCHESTER, England, May 26, (Reuters): New ball bowlers Neil Foster and Phillip DeFreitas, who wrecked Australia's front line batting, set up England's decisive victory by 95 runs in the opening one-day international at Old Trafford yesterday.

DeFreitas removed in-form opener David Boon for five while Foster accounted for Dean Jones and captain Allan Border, who each scored four, in consecutive overs as Australia slumped to 17 for three in pursuit of England's 231 for nine in their 55 overs.

Australia's hopes were lifted as Steve Waugh hit their top score of 35 but once he fell in DeFreitas' second spell the touring team never looked like mounting a serious challenge and were all out for 136 with 7.5 overs left.

Foster ended with three for 29 from 10 overs and DeFreitas took two for 19 in eight overs, together with the Man of the Match award.

The pair were effectively supported by off-spinner John Embury with three for 31.

Derek Pringle and Ian Botham, who failed with the bat on his England comeback — he scored only four — but bowled his medium-pacers tidily to take one for 28 in 10.1 overs.

England were given a flying start after winning the toss on an



Gooch (right) plays a stroke while Australian wicket-keeper Ian Healy keeps a close eye on the ball (Reuters wirephoto)

easy-paced pitch, passing 100 for the loss of two wickets in the 28th over, but failed to press home the advantage.

Their captain David Gower, who opted to open, led by example with a rapid 36 and his partner Graham Gooch scored a controlled 52.

But apart from Allan Lamb

and Robin Smith, who each hit 35, the rest of the batting was contained by competitive Australian out-cricketer in the second half of the innings.

Gower, recalled to captain his country after being sacked three years ago, could scarcely have helped to provide a better start as he and Gooch put on 55 in 12

overs. Fast bowler Geoff Lawson bore the brunt of the punishment, his first five overs costing 32 runs as Gower made his 36 from 33 deliveries.

Border's first bowling change was immediately rewarded, Carl Rackemann making his fifth delivery leave Gower off the pitch and England's skipper edged it to be caught behind.

Mike Gatting had made only three when Waugh's third delivery struck pad, then bat and lobbed to short extra cover where Boon held the catch.

Gooch, playing in masterly fashion, had just completed his half century in 105 balls when he fell in the last over before lunch. He attempted to sweep the left-arm spin of Border and was caught off a top edge by Jones at short fine leg.

Australia's bowlers and fieldsmen contained England so well after lunch that there were only four boundaries in the last 22 overs — all scored by Smith in an innings that underlined he is one of the hardest hitters in the English game.

England's final score, though a challenging one, would have disappointed them in the context of their flying start but they gave a perfect demonstration of their ability to defend such a total.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
G. Gooch c Jones b Border	52
D. Gower c Healy b Rackemann	36
M. Gatting c Boon b Waugh	3
A. Lamb b Lawson	35
R. Smith c and b Alderman	35
I. Botham c Boon b Lawson	4
D. Pringle lbw b Waugh	9
S. Rhodes b Lawson	8
P. DeFreitas not out	17
J. Embury b Rackemann	10
N. Foster not out	5
Extras (lb-12 w-3 nb-2)	17
Total (55 overs, innings closed)	231
Fall of wickets: 1-55 2-70 3-125 4-161 5-167 6-179 7-190 8-203 9-220	
Bowling: Alderman 11-2-38-1, Lawson 11-1-46-3, Rackemann 10-1-33-2, Waugh 11-1-45-2, Moody 8-0-37-0, Border 4-0-18-1.	

AUSTRALIA	
G. Marsh c Rhodes b Embury	17
D. Boon b DeFreitas	5
D. Jones c Rhodes b Foster	4
A. Border b Foster	4
S. Waugh c Smith b DeFreitas	35
T. Moody b Embury	24
M. Valettia lbw b Pringle	17
I. Healy c Embury b Foster	10
G. Lawson c DeFreitas b Embury	0
C. Rackemann b Botham	6
T. Alderman not out	0
Extras (lb-10 w-9 w-4)	14
Total (47.1 overs)	136
Fall of wickets: 1-8 2-13 3-17 4-64 5-85 6-116 7-119 8-120 9-136	
Bowling: Foster 10-3-29-3, DeFreitas 8-1-19-2, Pringle 8-2-19-1, Botham 10-1-28-1, Embury 11-0-31-3.	

Next England won by 95 runs. Next one-day international: Saturday, May 27, Trent Bridge.



Moxon (left) and Metcalfe: hit half centuries

Yorkshire batsmen punish Derbyshire

LONDON, May 26, (Reuters): Yorkshire's batsmen built on the good work of Arnie Sidebottom, who took five for 40, to secure a first-innings lead of 116 on the second day of their English County Championship match against Derbyshire yesterday.

Sidebottom claimed the last three Derbyshire wickets before Yorkshire openers Martyn Moxon and Ashley Metcalfe set about the bowlers with some glorious strokeplay in reply to the 178 total.

Metcalfe raced to half century from only 42 deliveries in a first-wicket stand of 94 in 23 overs. Moxon hit 50 and Metcalfe 60.

Although Derbyshire perked up to take five wickets in the afternoon session, further half centuries by Kevin Sharp and Ian Swallow confirmed Yorkshire's superiority. They ended the day on 294 for seven.

At Leicester, a fifth-wicket stand of 96 between Laurie Potter and Justin Leicestershire pulled the home side out of trouble against Kent.

Leicestershire, chasing Kent's first innings total of 307, lost their first four wickets for only 97 in 38 overs.

Other matches: At the Oval: Lancashire 257 in 91.1 overs (D. Hughes 50 not out, K. Medley 40 four for 42) and 39 for no wicket. Surrey 200 for three declared in 60 overs (D. Bicknell 100 not out). At Leicester: Kent 307 in 123.4 overs (G. Cowdrey 108 not out). Leicestershire 193 for five off 75.2 overs (L. Potter 55 not out). At Worcester: Worcestershire 269 in 94.2 overs (T. Curtis 50, D. D'Oliveira 43, E. Hemmings four for 60, K. Cooper three for 33). Nottinghamshire 116 for three off 46 overs. At Headingley: Derbyshire 178 in 82.4 overs (A. Sidebottom five for 40, P. Carrick four for 60). Yorkshire 294 for seven off 96 overs (N. Swallow 60 not out, A. Metcalfe 60, K. Sharp 51, M. Moxon 50).

At Cambridge (Fenner's): Cambridge University 133 and 77 for one wicket (S. James 52 not out). Essex 347 for six declared (M. Waugh 92, P. Prichard 88, J. Stephenson 63, M. Garham 55 not out). At Oxford (Parks): Middlesex 358 for one declared (I. Hutchinson 201 not out, M. Roseberry 181 not out) and 33 for no wicket. Oxford University 92 for 11. J. Sykes three for 22. At Downpatrick: Northamptonshire beat Ireland by 61 runs in a one-day (60 overs-a-side) match. Northamptonshire 243 for eight innings closed (D. Murray 135, J. McBride three for 28), Ireland 182.



Olympic gold medalist

Saudi Prince Faisal Bin Abdul-Aziz (right) head of the Arab Sports Federation, shakes hands with Morocco's 1984 Olympic gold medalist in the 400-metre hurdles Nawal Al Moutawakil at the start of a festival in Cairo on Wednesday to honour all Arab Olympic winners from 1927 to 1988. (Reuters wirephoto)

American star loses motivation

I may have come to the end of the road: Evert

LONDON, May 26, (Reuters): American tennis star Chris Evert said today she may quit the game because she has lost motivation and form.

"I may have finally come to the end of the road," the 34-year-old Evert said at London's Heathrow airport on her way home to Florida.

"The motivation just isn't there any more. I'm going home to think carefully about my

future and whether I am going to play Wimbledon this year."

Evert, who pulled out of the French Open on Wednesday after a surprise second-round defeat by Austrian teenager Barbara Paulus at the European Open in Geneva, added that if she did decide to play Wimbledon it would be her last appearance there.

"I love Wimbledon and would

hate to miss it, but I wouldn't want to come and lose in the first round," the three-times Wimbledon champion said.

Evert, who has also won the French Open a record seven times as well as eight other Grand Slam titles, said she as surprised she had lasted so long in tennis.

"I think the accumulation of so many years in the game has finally taken its toll. Physically there is no problem but mentally

it's hard to carry on."

Evert, who has been playing on the circuit for 18 years, said she would practise on grass courts at home to see if she enjoyed it before deciding whether to compete at Wimbledon.

"I have a couple of weeks before I have to make a decision, but at the moment it's 50-50," she said.

Disabled list

DETROIT, May 26, (AP): Tigers right-hander Jack Morris, the winningest pitcher in the 1980s, finally found a foe he couldn't conquer — himself. Morris, who has missed only two starts in his 13-year Major League baseball career, was placed on the 31-day disabled list for the first time yesterday with an injured right elbow.

Barcelona lose

MURCIA, Spain, May 26, (Reuters): Lowly Real Murcia yesterday scored their first goals at home for three and a half months to deal a crushing blow to Barcelona's hopes of pipping Real Madrid for the Spanish League title.

Botham nearly quit over press pressure

LONDON, May 26, (Reuters): Ian Botham, who made his England comeback yesterday after major back surgery, has disclosed that he nearly quit cricket because of constant pressure from the media.

All-rounder Botham said in an English television programme to be screened today that he almost made the decision to retire while recovering from his operation early last summer which kept him out of the game for 12 months.

Asked in the programme, which followed his life for a year, whether he thought that, because of his superstar status, he should receive only favourable publicity, Botham said: "You get what you deserve."

"But I just wish I did get what I deserve and not what certain members of the press contrive to be the truth."

Lendl and Graf need not fear revolution

Top seeds tipped to win French Open



Ivan Lendl

PARIS, May 26, (Reuters): France may be celebrating the 200th anniversary of its revolution but the prospects of anyone overthrowing the established order at the French Open tennis championship look slim.

Ivan Lendl and Steffi Graf, eminently capable of quelling any sign of revolt among the lower ranks, run little risk of a premature oneway trip to the Roland Garros guillotine.

In terms of temperament, it would be hard to find two players less inclined to lose their heads in any case.

The regal manner in which they have imposed their rule over the men's and women's tennis worlds, their past records and their current form all point to two more titles for Lendl and Graf.

For Lendl it would be fourth French Open crown and for Graf, who played the pitiless executioner last year in a 6-0 6-0 final win over Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union, it would be her third in a row.

If Graf looks no more likely to topple than the Eiffel tower — and that has been standing for exactly 100 years — Lendl could at least have some interesting skirmishes on centre court.

Two teen-age upstarts named Alberto Mancini and Andre Agassi are clearly willing to foment an uprising against the solid Czechoslovak citadel, back to his best after a disappointing 1988 season.

The 19-year-old Argentine Mancini has leapt to 13th in the world rankings with his

stunning victories in the last month at the Monte Carlo and Rome clay court tournaments.

The ferocious pace of his forehand and backhand groundstrokes is the most eye-catching part of his game but no less impressive is his lack of fear for the big names as he showed in Monte Carlo by defeating Mats Wilander and Boris Becker on successive days.

The brash American Agassi, another 19-year-old who burst on the scene in meteoric fashion last year to reach the Roland Garros semifinals, is back to form after a bleak spell in which he confessed he was forced to re-evaluate his role as crowd-pleaser.

Agassi, who lost last week's Rome final to Mancini after holding match point, also packs devastating power from the baseline but has few reserves of stamina which leave him vulnerable in long matches.

Defending champion Wilander can never be totally ruled out even if the spark has gone out of his game this year. But the Swede has always reserved his best tennis for the Grand Slam events and, like Lendl, has been three times champion in Paris.

West German Becker, formerly considered a fast-court specialist, has shown greater patience and tactical awareness on clay and, seeded to meet Lendl in the final, will be hard to dislodge.

The withdrawals of John McEnroe and last year's finalist Frenchman Henri Leconte,

both with back problems, leave gaps in the field which the new generation of European and South American clay players will be eager to exploit.

But Lendl, who has already captured the Australian Open and three other titles this year, has no reason to fear any of them.

The women's draw has a strange look following the decision of the top three Americans — Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert and Pam Shriver — to duck out this year.

Graf's only serious rival is Gabriela Sabatini, who made the West German look human for once when she handed her a first and only defeat of the year to date at Amelia Island, Florida.

But the Argentine was summarily dismissed 6-3 6-1 by Graf in the West Berlin final last week to restore the normal pecking order.

In Paris, where she won her first Grand Slam crown two years ago at the age of 17, Graf has the chance of a place in the record books. Unbeaten since the 1987 US Open final, she could equal Navratilova's record of six Grand Slam titles in a row.

She would also become the first woman since the World War Two to win three consecutive crowns at Roland Garros.

There are a host of promising teenagers on the women's circuit, such as Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez and Conchita Martinez — but none who look anything like ready to overthrow the sport's undisputed queen.

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